

# Maclean's

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

November 1, 1999

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# From the Editor

## Weighing the future, if any, of the CBC

**Oops.** There was the new president of the CBC telling CBC Radio listeners on *At & Happe* that his favourite TV show is the popular NBC drama *Law and Order*. Given Bob Rabinovitch's *ogress* for *Canadian*, that he is not alone in his viewing patterns. CBC English television audiences have disappeared in recent years, with the increase in specialty cable shows and the dominance of popular American programs on third networks. Restoring a national audience is perhaps the major challenge: the emergency 50-year-old Rabinovitch faces as he assumes command of the troubled national broadcaster.

But there are related hot issues on his plate. Having absorbed more than \$500 million in budget cuts since 1993 (about 30 per cent), can the CBC continue to try to be all things to all people? Clearly, no. Rabinovitch knows the CBC will have to make some hard choices. Will he keep sports? Drop drama? Get out of local news? Shut down facilities and let others worry about hardware?

Rabinovitch is a thoughtful person, with long experience in the federal bureaucracy and a strong commitment to

public broadcasting. But he also has spent the past 15 years in the private sector, making lots of money for the Bradstreet family and for himself (page 30). He knows the value of the CBC's commercial revenue base, which now constitutes 30.4 per cent of the annual budget of \$1.1 billion.

Will he want to see sports, which supplies around one-third of commercial revenue? No, says Rabinovitch, who told *Maclean's* Anthony Wilson-Smith that he regards the network's sports coverage as "essential." But it is imperative that the CBC televise major-league baseball, when it is already available on uncensored channels in most major centres. As good as the sports-avoiding is on CBC, is there anything distinctive about a pro golf "arena" game in prime time, save for the sponsorship? Should the flagship national news disappear for new months each spring while country Sweden and Canada and Russians struggle in Dallas and Colorado for the Stanley Cup?

And what about local news? The private nations have been eroding the CBC's no place in the supper hour of the nation. Indeed, in some com-

munities that has already happened naturally, as audiences flock to other outlets. In some communities a scandal would be cheaper for CBC to send out a bus, rounding up all the people who wanted to watch local news, and drive them to the studio for a private viewing. Yes, chop the regions out of the mix and the English CBC becomes a Toronto-based news centre that will be accused of ignoring the regions.

Does the CBC intend to staff every major event with a phalanx of people from English and French TV and English and French radio? What about the commitment to deliver its signals to all parts of the country, which requires an expensive microwave relay system? Is that a feasible operating system in an age of satellite and digital transmission? Questions, questions, questions. Bob Rabinovitch needs to come up with the answers. Success, to be said and less work, is not assured. But if he fails, the emergency the big question will be clear: the CBC has no future.

*Robert Lewis*

## Newsroom Notes Millennial madness

**Why does a simple numerical outlier have such a hold on people?** That millennial question began to fascinate Senior Writer Robert Sheppard in the change to 2000 down matter. As part of this week's cover package, Sheppard wrote a four-page essay running over some answers (page 42). He waded through books by millen-



Sheppard, change

nium watchers and thinkers about time, as well as ruminating the *Journal*. "Did you know," he asks, "what there are at least 2,573 Web sites devoted to the millennium and predictions?" Sheppard says he found many elements to consider: "morality, rampant cynicism, fire of the unknown, determination to leave a mark—above all a

sense of time changing, an end and a beginning, perhaps even a fresh start." His essay is paired with a global look at millennial preparations by London Bureau Chief Barry Crane. The package was edited by Senior Editor Bruce Woodward.

**As the time approaches for students to submit applications for university admission, Maclean's** authors are putting the finishing touches on our ninth annual ranking of Canadian universities. It will hit the newsstands on Nov. 8.



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# The Mail

## Bill Reid and art

There is sure to be a flurry of reactions against the export of the human side of Bill Reid, a man who grew to be a cultural icon ("Trade secrets," Cover, Oct. 18). Reid not only created art, but also manufactured it. He not only gained a reputation, but also self-consciously engineered his own celebrity. There is little to be surprised about here, nor does anything in the article seriously threaten the value of Reid's work. What you do threaten are commonly held convictions that an artist should not stoop to hiring and exploiting assistants, and/or in exotic creation, bric-a-brac, get drunk on alcohol, exhibit any human weakness. But, really, how far do an artist's personal morals affect the value of his or her art? Does not the art stand on its own? The notion of art as investment has over the past 50 years replaced any appreciation of art for its intrinsic merits. If Canadians could appreciate art as and for itself, the kind of commodification that Reid perpetuated and was victimized by would find no audience.

Patric Wilton, Victoria

You have taken the Canadian penchant for self-mutilation to new heights with your pillorying of Bill Reid. The spiritless attitudes you quote should prove their worth by emerging as significant art, not by denigrating one



Reid the master's artistic vision

of Canada's true greats. Do you think that creating a work as innovative as *The Raven and the First Men*, or as mind-blowing as *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii* is as simple as "surfacing" or "selling up"? Merciful complexity in creating a successful Canadian craftsman is no. When Reid died, all you gave him was a nose in *Paragon*. Now, you give him a corner and 11 pawns to discredit him.

Lorne Matheson, Pictou Island, N.S.

Thank you for your informative article on Bill Reid. Who knew?

Glen Hamilton, Vancouver

Your story on Bill Reid is misleading and misrepresents a great Canadian artist. It is well known that the masters over the centuries have used assistants to complete large pieces, but the work remains the product of the master's creative vision and his passion. Reid's status as 20th-century art is such that previous artists, critics, curators and friends of Reid from all over the world have founded the Bill Reid Foundation. Together we are dedicated to preserving and perpetuating his legacy, which has four main pillars: the quality of his art;

## Giving credit

I recall when the superb artist George Rameau first raised space in my Generalville Island Studios to build Bill Reid's *Killer Whale* project, which now stands before the aquarium in Vancouver's Stanley Park. He went on to manage and oversee the building of *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii*. Rameau played a far more significant part than that of assistant, being absolutely central and fundamental to the success of both projects. What I found truly alarming and disappointing was the total lack of credit given to him, which appalled me far more than it did him. To my knowledge, Rameau has never credited Bill Reid beyond saying, "It would have been nice to be granted some recognition." He has always praised Reid as the great man he was. Possibly Reid's estate would have been even greater had he been generous enough to give credit where it was due.

Barry Engwell, Langley, B.C.

the bridges he built between First Nations and other peoples, his contributions to redefining Northwest Coast art; and the enrichment of all of our lives. The architect is said to be Bill Reid's his art, and will remain so forever. **Charles J. Cunningham, Chairman, The Bill Reid Foundation, Vancouver**

While writing a recently published book on native North American art, I interviewed many of the most native artists mentioned in your article. Yes, Bill Reid hired the finest native and non-native talents to realize his brilliant concepts and visions as he became increasingly ill with Parkinson's disease. This was not a secret, and no one indicated that he had used his other own team. To the contrary, I recall a pride in having been connected with Reid in any capacity. Undoubtedly they would have appreciated having their assets publicly attached to a Bill Reid project on which they assisted, but this rarely happens in any artistic endeavor be it architecture, sculpture, painting or jewelry.

Leticia Shain Dabbs, New York

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## The Mail

### Establishing roots

**Peter Weinrich** makes excellent observations regarding fact and fiction, and the fraudulent claims that are often made when writing ancestors' lives. In "The Mail, Oct. 4, he notes that I was quoted in your Sept. 20 cover story, "The search for roots," as saying that I can trace my ancestry back to a knight who accompanied William the Conqueror and goes on to say, dispassionately, that "perhaps I can," but "there were only 15 knights who can be proved to have been contemporaries of William at the Battle of Hastings." I am not a genealogist but an amateur researching the histories of my predecessors, both male and female. My interest in question was, incidentally, on huncorn David Douglas-Scott of men established with certainty in have fought at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The family lineage from the Conquest generation to the 1500s has been documented and published. While most data come from church, legal cases and other documents, some information was derived from the Heraldic Visitations of the 1500s, where the facts could have been distorted. I am definitely not in a direct line of descent, but am happy in the belief that I am a remote descendant and that there is Norman blood in my veins, however diluted it may be.

Don Trebilcock, Ottawa

As a long-standing member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I want to thank you for your article "The Mormons' genealogical gift" (Cover, Sept. 20). However, there was one small but very significant error. The article states that "in a part of the church's mission to have to 11 million adherents identify their ancestors and baptize them into the faith," and that it is "an effort sometimes to relatives of a different belief when a long-held common ancestor is baptized by proxy as a Mormon." The members of the church who engage in identifying their ancestors do not baptize these individuals into the faith, placing them

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## The Mail

to accept it in the article suggests. In fact, as it is noted in the pamphlet "Welcome to the Family History Centre," "Members [of the church] identify their ancestors to ensure that the essential ordinances are performed on their behalf in sacred temples. Assurance for whom the ordinances are performed are free to choose whether they accept these ordinances." It is very important to note that no one is baptized "as a Mormon," but the work is done so that those who have passed on might choose to become a member of the church if they wish. Of course, that is our hope.

Linda D. Smith, London, Ont.

Unfortunately, the article "The search for roots" did not go quite far enough in telling your readers how they can build their family tree. Century records are often an effective genealogical source. The century is not only a cartoon of a community's and our nation's most fascinating history, but also provides a research vehicle through tombstones and records.

Heidi R. Zucchet, President, Mount Pleasant Group of Genealogists, Toronto

## Restoring the herald

Retired herald painter Frank Mad-Ritter is right on target. "Neutral puny-car," *The Mail*, Sept. 15) concerning former governor general Roméo LeBlond's childish meddling with the nation's heraldry. If one is uniformly incorrect and panned by a national heraldic bureau sticking out their tongues, well, minor adjustments might be made, the tongue withdrawn. But an open mouth with bared fangs and unwhetted sculler claws must be reined, for that is a reflection of our history, national honour and a warning to scoundrels. The magnificent mane indicates no weakness, therefore let the lion's hair of paternal prowess also be reined to remind us of the dignity, valour and courage of our forefathers.

Paul Macdonald, Woodville, Ont.



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- Geoff Chapman, The Toronto Star

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## The Mail

### Model of health

"Do we need more doctors?" (Health, Oct. 18) was right on and one hopes the powers that be will take notice. As an occupational health nurse, I concur that a co-ordinated health system with many disciplines working together would reduce health-care costs and benefit patients. In occupational health settings, nurses conduct physical assessments, do health promotion, offer to other disciplines when necessary direct emergency services and perform many other duties. The physician, psychologist, dietitian, safety personnel and ergonomists also they work with are happy to have this screening done by professionally prepared occupational health nurses. In industry, it has been proven such a model works well and has for years. This same model, when used in parts of the country, is also proving effective for both physicians and their patients. It leaves the doctor time to address the problems that he or she is trained for.

Richard Barry, Windsor, B.C.

### A view on separatism

So, U.S. President Bill Clinton has just taken Bouchard as his place at the Mont-Tremblant conference on federalism by announcing that only significant public independence ("An ending of the dirty book," Canada, Oct. 18). Since when? Surely, the clearly increased work of a people to run its own affairs (Albania, Croatia, Timor, etc.) or seek other arrangements (like re-unionization in the case of Germany, Korea, Ireland, etc.) should be respected by the international community. According to Clinton logic, the FICQ had the right approach: taxation would provide repression, which would run into opposition and eventually justify independence. Also, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien declared that seeking sovereignty because you speak a different language makes no sense because there are 600 languages in the world and only 200 countries. The PM overlooked the fact that the majority of countries in the

world are not federations but nations based largely on a common language. Successful federations are a minority. François Bouchard, Toronto

### Is our food safe?

Your articles on genetically modified organisms would cause the more astute thresholds in a food-processing company to consider diversifying ("The food fight," World, Oct. 18). The 21st century brings unimagined challenges for this planet—population pressure, environmental degradation, climate change—all requiring novel solutions. Anyone familiar with GMO technology would agree it is a good candidate to supply solutions for these challenges. If the ag biotech industry is hobbled by such one-sided articles, then will the public (i.e., those there to take up the job of supplying the needed solutions?

Geoff Newton, Vancouver

The aims of genetic modification may be straightforward, but the means are not. The genetic products may be assembled with precision, but are implanted in the host DNA way much at random. What hole independent testing of these organisms has been done seems to indicate the same used to select plant DNA with these genes can also select animals that can eat food. I am not talking from eating foods like corn and potatoes that have been modified so contain toxins in every cell, or that, like genetically modified cattle and sheep, will survive multiple dosages of the herbicide Roundup. It's time for the Canadian government to support the safest trend in food production: organic agriculture. Harvey Rosenberg, Kelso, B.C.

Thank you for your articles on genetically engineered food. It is not that Canadians know or like about the potentially hazardous situation. What is worse is the cruel way Ontario plays with our health: identifying labels on this food should be mandatory so a tip to the grocery store with such a gentle. Peter Collins, Woodbridge, Ont.

# Journey into Y2K

Advice for Canadians Travelling Abroad



Various authorities predict that the year 2000 computer problems may cause disruptions that could affect international travel or residency in a foreign country.

Transportation, telecommunications, banking, medical care, insurance, and government services could be affected, even before the end of 1999.

If you are planning to travel outside Canada in the coming weeks, you should seek authoritative information on whether your travel to, or sojourn in, another country could be affected.

Further information can be obtained in the Travel Section of the Department's Web site at <http://www.dfaft-maeci.gc.ca> or by calling 1-800-711-8977 (available only in Canada/U.S.A.) or (613) 944-3037 in the Ottawa-Hull region.



## Travel Talk: Gar Pardy

Gar Pardy, Director General, Consular Affairs Bureau, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, talks about the safety of Canadian travellers, planning ahead for trips abroad and how your travel plans might be affected by Y2K.

When a retired Vancouver man was assaulted and robbed of all his money and identification outside his South Pacific island hotel, the staff of the Canadian consulate came to his rescue. They told him that the man received medical treatment, helped contact his health insurance company, organized payment of medical bills and replaced the stolen passport. Arrangements were made for the transfer of emergency funds from the unfortunate traveller's bank in Vancouver to the Canadian consulate.

That, says Gar Pardy, is what consular services of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) is all about. "We provide assistance to Canadian travellers."

But the director general of the Consular Affairs Bureau is not taking credit for a job well done, but urging awareness to help travellers look out for their own safety and the need to prepare for travel outside Canada. It's really important, he says, not to take chances.

Pardy suggests that there is a tendency when people are on vacation to "let their hair down, relax and do things they wouldn't normally do at home." Personal documentation should be locked in your hotel. "Carry photocopies with you," he urges. "Passports and credit cards are valuable documents. Valuable to you, even more valuable to someone who can take them away from you."

For local information, the Consular Affairs Bureau puts out regularly issued travel reports on 217 countries with country-specific information on safety and security issues, health concerns and visa requirements, as well as reliable contact information. These are available on the DFAIT Web site.

"Everything we do relates to providing Canadians with accurate information, in a geographic sense or in a more functional sense, in terms of trying to lead them through the travel process. The more informed you are, the fewer problems you're going to have," says Pardy.

And it is always smart to be prepared for the unexpected. "People buy medical insurance," he says. "Things happen. Illnesses and accidents are expensive when you're out of the country and our provincial plans provide fewer and fewer benefits." And in addition to your valid passport and visa, take along the address and

phone number of the nearest Canadian office in the area you are visiting. If you are going to be in the area for any length of time, let that office know where they can find you in case of an emergency.

The addresses and telephone numbers of offices where consular services are available are listed in *Red Voyage*. But a handy little guide, sized to fit in your pocket or purse. It is part of a series of consular publications on safe travel that detail the precautions travellers should take before departure, publicize they may encounter on their journey and action consular officials can and cannot take to assist Canadians in distress.

Pardy is concerned that problems could be magnified as a result of Y2K and recommends that Canadians who are going to be out of the country between December 1999, and January 2000 should be particularly destination-specific in their research. "No search is going to leave Canada unless they know they can land safely," he says. "Flowerer customs and immigration services at foreign destinations are dependent on computers and may be affected. Be prepared to spend a couple of hours in the airport. Think, too, about hotels, medical services, banking and communications. Are you going to be able to use your bank card? Call Visa and ask if it's their understanding that your card is going to be useful in your destination on the 2nd of January or take travellers' cheques, to give yourself a little extra insurance."

For a helpful overview of the Y2K impact on travel, travellers can look for the bureau's most recent publication — *Journey into Y2K: Advice for Canadians Travelling Abroad*.

Anyone encountering problems overseas can contact a Canadian embassy. Canadian consular services operate 24 hours a day seven days a week through a network of some 200 offices in over 180 countries. The 250 offices include embassies, high commissions, consulates, honorary consulates and development offices. In some places, Australian diplomatic offices provide consular services to Canadians.

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# Notes

Edited by Tanya Davies

## Trudeau turns 80 with the old gang

It was a hazy morning of sons, a close occasion for the old gang that sustained Pierre Trudeau in power for nearly 16 years. Maybe it was even something of a last supper. Not that Trudeau, who celebrated his 80th birthday on Oct. 18 in his old abode, 24 Sunset Drive, is an especially frail health. But it is unlikely that the same confluence of happy events and personalities will occur anytime soon.

In the same dining room where he had shared across the table at René Lévesque, world leaders and, yes, across Robert Stordard, there was Trudeau, flanked by former cabinet ministers and aides. Directly across was Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, the man Trudeau appointed to eight different cabinet positions. Among the guests: former ministers Romano LeBlanc and Mitchell Sharp, former aides Ivan H. Head, Michael Kirby and Ted Johnson, newsmaker Keith Davey and financier Paul Desmarais. "These were the people Pierre was closest to in a personal sense," says Senator Jack Austin, the

*Trudeau (right) and with guests but his legacy was replaced by his political ideas*



Chrétien and former cabinet heavyweight Allan Rock. Trudeau led the speech-making—Trudeau's response was a few heartfelt minutes of silence. The entire evening passed in three hours, much of it taken up by chat-chat as old friends caught up after a long absence. "I guess most of us were there to celebrate the Trudeau era," says one participant. "And to celebrate the guy, too. He is a great guy."

organizer and a former principal secretary. It was very much a back-of-the-party: the only woman invited, former aide and now Senator Joyce Fairbairn, had a prior engagement. One of the few under 60 was Trudeau's middle son, Sacha, 25.

Trudeau initially balked at such a gathering, but faced with a determined group of well-wishers—and when Chrétien offered 24 Sunset as the venue—he came around.

## Best-Sellers

Fiction	WEEKS ON CHART
1. <b>PLAGIARISM</b> , Thomas Huxley (3)	1
2. <b>A DEAD CALLED KIDNEY</b> , John Doe (5)	2
3. <b>IN PULLING IN THE PUPPETS</b> , Michael, C. (1)	3
4. <b>NO GREAT HONOUR</b> , Robert Stordard (1)	4
5. <b>PERSONAL INQUIRY</b> , Scott Lewis (2)	5
6. <b>SHUTTLE SERVICE</b> , David Macfarlane (2)	6
7. <b>THE SECRETARY OF PARLIAMENT</b> , Joe Smith (3)	7
8. <b>A GARDENING</b> , Robert Stordard (1)	8
9. <b>HEARTS IN PULLING</b> , Stephen King (2)	9
10. <b>SHOULD BE LOVE</b> , Kelly Smith (2)	10

(1) Weeks on list. Compiled by Bruce Belliveau

Nonfiction	WEEKS ON CHART
1. <b>THE DARK MOUNTAIN</b> (3)	1
2. <b>JOURNALS OF JOHN, Ian Watt (1)</b>	2
3. <b>THE MOUNTAIN</b> , Ian Watt (1)	3
4. <b>THE MOUNTAIN</b> , Ian Watt (1)	4
5. <b>THE MOUNTAIN</b> , Ian Watt (1)	5
6. <b>THE MOUNTAIN</b> , Ian Watt (1)	6
7. <b>THE MOUNTAIN</b> , Ian Watt (1)	7
8. <b>THE MOUNTAIN</b> , Ian Watt (1)	8
9. <b>THE MOUNTAIN</b> , Ian Watt (1)	9
10. <b>THE MOUNTAIN</b> , Ian Watt (1)	10

## Communicating in a void

The virtual world of the Internet has rapidly become a forum for every human activity, from medical research to sex. And cyberspace, Patricia Wallace writes in *The Psychology of the Internet* (Cambridge University Press), has wrought profound changes in the way we interact with one another. Humans are accustomed to numerous subtle—often unconscious—signals that help them place strangers in familiar slots, argues Wallace, a University of Maryland psychologist. By robbing users of those guides, the Internet can foster anxiety, suspicion and anti-social behaviour as easily as it facilitates communication.

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## Downsizing, Bronfman-style

**Charles Bronfman** has taken a bite out of the Big Apple. Bronfman, 68, co-chairman of Montreal-based Seagram Co. Ltd., recently agreed to sell to pay about \$27 million for a 680-square-meter duplex condominium at 838 Fifth Ave. in Manhattan. That brings the number of Bronfman living within a 15-block radius of Manhattan's exclusive Fifth Avenue to four: Charles's older brother, Edgar, the chairman of Seagram, and his wife, Jan Aronson, live at 990 Fifth Ave. Edgar Jr., the chief executive of Seagram, owns a five-story, 36-million-construction (which has been in the midst of renovations since 1996) with his wife,



Charles Bronfman

Christa Alcock. And another of Edgar's sons, Matthew, paid \$4.1 million for a townhouse, with reports that he and wife Lisa Reiberg spent as much \$25 million updating it. Charles and his wife, Andrea, can move into their new home until July 2000, when the building is scheduled to be completed. The developer's proposed design for the Bronfman's apartment shows three bedrooms. But don't expect serious quarters as a state office. If the couple, who currently divide their time between homes in Montreal and Palm Beach, Fla., want those luxuries, they will have to pay between \$45,000 and \$846,000 more.

## A scorching finish Down Under

A solar-powered car designed by Queensland University of Technology, placed second in last week's World Solar Challenge in Australia. The car, one of 40 entries in the five-day, 2,828-km race that started in Darwin, crossed the Red Sea in Adelaide just 1.5 minutes behind an Australian team sponsored by Ford Motor Co.



## Pop Movies

1. <i>Lighter</i> (15/1)	\$122,000
2. <i>Boys in the Trees</i> (15/4)	\$111,000
3. <i>The Day of the Dragon</i> (15/2)	\$110,000
4. <i>Acoustic</i> (15/3)	\$102,000
5. <i>New Wave</i> (15/1)	\$91,000
6. <i>Acoustic</i> (15/3)	\$88,000
7. <i>The Day of the Dragon</i> (15/2)	\$82,000
8. <i>Acoustic</i> (15/3)	\$80,000
9. <i>Acoustic</i> (15/3)	\$78,000
10. <i>The Day of the Dragon</i> (15/2)	\$72,000

Top musical CDs, ranked according to box office during the week days the week of Oct. 28. (In brackets, number of weeks/weeks showing.) Source: Entertainment Weekly.

## Musical hit

**Horror film-maker** Wes Craven, best known for his movie *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, has taken an inspirational turn with *Music of the Heart*. The film, starring Oscar winner Meryl Streep, depicts the true story of Roberta Granger, who taught music to children in Harlem, changing both their lives and hers.

## Passages

**Nominated:** The following authors for the 1999 Governor General's Literary Awards for English-language fiction: Neil Bissoondath of St-Fey, Que., for *The World Within Her*; Toronto's Matt Cohen for *Alcohol*; and Anne Fleming for *Post-Mortem* and *Other Stories*. The winner will be announced on Nov. 16 in Red Bull Hall in Ottawa.



Neil Bissoondath

**Disch:** Former owner of the Minnesota Twins major-league baseball team Cal Griffith, 87, of complications from heart surgery, in Melbourne, Fla. The Montreal native inherited the Washington Senators in 1956 and moved them to Minnesota four years later, changing the team name.

**Acquitted:** Former Italian prime minister Giulio Andreotti, on charges of conspiring with the Mafia. The verdict follows his acquittal in September of involvement in the 1979 murder of an Italian politician.

**Disch:** French author Nathalie Sarraute, 93, who is credited with developing the "anti-novel," a literary form without conventional characters or plots, in Paris. Sarraute wrote 17 books.

**Disch:** Boogie-woogie singer Ella Mae Morse, 75, who gave Capitol Records Inc. an first million-seller album in 1942 with *Good Good Beautiful*, an inspirational album, in Bullhead City, Ariz.

**Awarded:** Vancouver journalist Ken Bolan, 40, with the *Courage in Journalism* prize, by the International Women's Media Foundation, in New York City. Bolan faced death threats after writing in *The Vancouver Sun* about the unprovoked 1985 Air India plane crash, and now lives under police protection.

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## Opening Notes

### Explorer

#### A scientist's odyssey

Twenty years ago, after arriving from his native level position at AT&T Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J., Willard Boyle sailed with his wife, Betty, up New York's Hudson River to the St. Lawrence and down that body of water to Boyle's birthplace of Wallace Harbour, on the north shore of Nova Scotia. This week, the 75-year-old McGill University-trained physicist and his wife made another long voyage, flying from Halifax to Tokyo, where he and a former Bell Labs colleague, George Smith, received the \$136,000 Communications and Computing Prize for a 1969 invention that helped launch the digital age—the charge-coupled device. “It has had a profound effect,” says Boyle, “on all kinds of activities that take place in our society.”

The CCD, a durable, wafer-thin silicon chip just one-centimetre square, is capable of capturing light images and transforming them into electrical charges that can be stored and later displayed. The device led to the development of the hand-held video camera, and it is an essential component of fax machines, photocopies, digital still cameras and bar-code scanners. Because they are 10 times more sensitive to light than film, CCDs are now used in telescopes around the world.

The road to Boyle's successful career was slightly unconventional. His physician father, Bruce, moved the family from Wallace Harbour when he was 18 months old and settled near Riverview, Quebec, a remote community 300 km north of Montreal. His mother, Bernice, a nurse, taught him at home until he was 13, at which time he entered Grade 10 at Lower Canada College. After just eight years of



Boyle (left) and Smith at Bell Labs inventors

formal schooling, he obtained a PhD. Following a teaching stint, Boyle joined Bell Labs in 1953, where he invented the CCD, and retired in 1979.

#### The wallet of the future?

The M-Bracelet won't soon replace gold or silver as a fashion statement, but it could make obsolete the leather wallet and all its bank and credit cards. Although it is three to five years from commercial availability, a prototype of the wearable computer, developed by Dayton, Ohio-based NCR Corp., was shown



M-Bracelet wears cash

last week at an international symposium in San Francisco. The silicon rubber bracelet, which is about 2.5 cm wide, contains a flexible computer circuit board and thin strips of metal fabric for transmitting and receiving digital information. A user will be able to store electronic credit and bank cards on the M-Bracelet and download cash from an automated teller simply by touching a receptor. Similarly, users could pay for groceries by placing the bracelet against a receptor at the supermarket checkout counter. The device also contains sockets for metal tokens that can store electronic tokens, transit passes and medical records. The bracelet does take a passing swipe at style: it is available in 20 different colours and in

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- 3 Include strength training twice a week. Muscle is denser than fat, takes up less room, and burns fat and calories.
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A man with dark hair, wearing a blue dress shirt and a patterned tie, stands with his arms crossed in a server room. He is smiling slightly. In the background, rows of server racks are visible.

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Introduction  
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FROM THE ARCHIVES OF Maclean's

"One of the reasons why the literary community has been so active in the Nineties is that the seeds of its growth were sown in the Fifties. And much of the credit for that, I submit, belongs to Canada's National Magazine."

— from the Foreword by Pierre Berton



### Backstage



Anthony Wilson-Smith

## The curse of 'Me Journalism'

For those who didn't see Canada's two nationally distributed newspapers a couple of Sundays ago, here's some of their news. Robert Mason

Lee would like to talk about comparing male sexual equipment with other races, but so far, he's found only vikings. Jim Wagg took a flight that wasn't comfortable, and she didn't like the food. Leah McLaren used a cell phone with a friend, and found it really, really useful, but it's annoying when other people use them. And Ken Harrison went on a diet recommended by a former television personality, but it was juicy and didn't work, so she gave it up.

What those four people have in common, beyond a find-a-sun for talking about themselves, is that they're working journalists. Welcome to the newest cutting edge of journalism: call it *I Whore News*. If you think news is what matters to everyone, you're out of date. Forget about you, it's all about us—we journalists, our thoughts, and experiences. Don't tell us your stories—we'll make the news, then learn. Forget the notion of newspapers as the last rough draft of history checked then in chains of our lives. A case in point is the Review section of *The Globe and Mail*, which, upon an first-person story overlaid, could better be called the *Life View*.

It's impossible to pinpoint when and why many journalists decided our lives are more interesting than anyone or anything else, but *Vanity Fair* seems a good place to pin the blame. It was the first mainstream magazine to have women regularly insert themselves into profiles of subjects. For example, a 1996 cover story on Tim Cruise by writer Janet Cosman began thus: "I know my limitations as a person." Tim's Cruise is telling me, *Lamentable!* I surely believe... Cruise is trying to convince me she's in a lousy interview. In Cosman's hands, he succeeds.

From then, it was a short leap for some journalists to the next step: why bother with other people, when I can write about... me. It diminishes the need to do reporting, and that's like doing it wrong: anyone if we only talk to ourselves. It's easy to understand why reporters want to write this stuff, but harder to figure why anyone wants to print it. Some publishers up and told readers are fascinated by the lives of journalists. But when you look at polls or learn to focus groups, a different conclusion emerges. Media consumers want to know who reporters are and how we gather news—because there's a documented amount of journalism that's suspicious, not affection.

The growth of "Me Journalism" poses problems far beyond gossip—not to mention that we now know way too much about Mason, Lee's predilections. When "reporting" is

referred to as studying yourself and like-minded friends, it blinds you to the perspective of others and traps you of empathy. In the same edition of

the *Globe* is which McLaren discovered cell phones, the reviewer's book by the mother of Cassie Bernall, one of the teenagers killed by schoolshooters in a shooting rampage in Littleton, Colo., refers this year. Because the book includes the widely publicized but unproven assertion that Bernall affirmed her belief in God just before she was shot, McLaren dismisses it as "a random exercise in American mythmaking [that] ended as a laughable charade." It takes a special sense of self-worth to dismiss as "laughable" the efforts of a grieving parent to find solace in the loss of a child.

Another casualty of self-absorbed journalism is reporting: some journalists pursue the way they interpret news events more than the need to report it accurately. Consider President Bill Clinton's blustering speech several weeks ago in Quebec on the virtues of federalism and the final fates of those who oppose it. These reporters who actually research their notes know that Clinton's remarks were aimed specifically at Quebec—because American news departments officials told them so. That didn't stop *National Post* columnist Scott Reid from ridiculing other journalists for making this point. He insisted, without substantiation, that Clinton was talking about that Times, not Quebec. Does he know something Clinton didn't tell his own officials?

If there's any one thing that also makes the life of a journalist different and sometimes more interesting than others, it's that our job gives us firsthand access to newsmakers and upstarts everywhere. When that's not the case, our views on anything are no more or less valid than the guy who spends every Sunday night in the neighborhood's bar, complaining about his boss, his wife and his life. And journalists already know, firsthand, what it's like to listen to others pontificating: we've all been snipped at one time or another by colleagues who are former foreign correspondents, for whom there has never been an occasion that does not remind them of life elsewhere decades ago.

It's all a lot like the United Kingdom's Isle of Man, where a large contingent of residents consists of retired military men who served the old Empire around the world. To locals, they're known, unaffectionately, as the "Wicks IV"—because every reminiscence begins with those two desecrated words. In Canada, it's relatively young journalists, not old soldiers, who attack at waves, leaving the parent off with first-person recollections. Here, to paraphrase a late 19th-century old Pope comic strip, you have the money, and he is in.

# Turmoil in Native Affairs

As debate begins in Ottawa on the controversial Nisga'a land-claim agreement in British Columbia, a new federal Indian affairs minister steps onto the field to carry the ball

By John Goddes in Ottawa

**Chief Joseph Gossell** is a man savouring his moment. At 63, he has been active in the politics of the Nisga'a for nearly four decades, the past seven years devoted almost entirely to negotiating the settlement of the northern British Columbia First Nations' land claim. Now, success is all but certain. The landmark deal was crafted by his own people last fall and the British Columbia government last spring. This week, when debate on a law to ratify the treaty at the federal level begins in the House of Commons, Gossell plans to be in the visitor's gallery. Angry opposition from the Reform party assures the agreement a rough ride, but he is relying on personal assurances from Prime Minister Jean Chrétien that it will pass unaltered. And the senior chief also takes comfort from the stand taken by Robert Nault, 44, the pragmatic new Indian affairs minister. "I think he looks like a chap who will carry the ball," Gossell observed in an interview.

Nault appears ready to not only carry the ball, but also, if necessary, to run it down the throats of his adversaries. Last week, he served notice that debate on the Nisga'a settlement in the Commons will be cut short if he does not like the tone of Reform's arguments. "We will have a reasonable debate if it's possible," Nault warned, "but we will not have a debate that's non-rational." And his opening is not limited to the official Opposition. In a wide-ranging interview with *Maclean's*, he lashed out at provinces that drag their feet on giving natives economic help, expressed impatience with anyone who is unwilling to accept recent court decisions broadening aboriginal rights in Atlantic Canada, and even took a well-aimed shot at the federal justice department's handling of those contentious cases. "I think it is time for us to change gears on this," he said. "It's time to start accommodating First Nations instead of trying to slow them down and keep them out of the economic mainstream."

The contrast between Gossell and Nault—two men near the centre of the current turmoil in native affairs—could hardly be more stark. Just as Nault's agile optimism the native cabinet minister trying to make his mark, Gossell's



Gossell in Ottawa: a landmark deal for the Nisga'a that has been many years in the making

two could negotiate here to allow the Nisga'a to tax non-native residents—a clause federal officials say is unlikely ever to be used.

When it comes to Nisga'a ownership of mineral resources, Gossell's steady speaking style grows even more measured. In British Columbia, where 50 other land claims are under negotiation, special native rights to fish, cut timber and develop mines is a sticky subject. Anxiety is still running high over the long-term implications of the Supreme Court of Canada's so-called *Delgamuoch* decision, a 1997 ruling that broadened the legal grounds for aboriginal land claims. Gossell emphasizes resource rights as the key to aboriginal economic self-sufficiency—a prospect he clearly believes holds wide appeal for Canadians. "We have plans for investment, getting into forestry, fisheries, tourism," he says. "Now we will do something to clear up the high rate of unemployment on our reserve."

But opponents of the Nisga'a deal—and any like it that might follow—attack the very foundations of such treaties. B.C. MP Mike Scott, the Reform Indian affairs critic, claims the approach is a continuation of old money-making policies that relegated First Nations to second-class economic status. "If money brought prosperity, then why are natives in Ontario and the Prairies not prospering?" Scott asks. "Treaties are an expression of collective over individual rights, collective ownership over individual rights." He contends that if the Nisga'a had been given a chance to vote for a deal that gave private property and cash payments to individuals, they would have jumped at the chance. Instead, the \$255 million to be paid over 15 years, along with 2,019 square kilometers of land and lucrative resource rights, will go to the Nisga'a government.

While negotiation produced the Nisga'a agreement, litigation is pushing the agenda on the opposite coast. Federal officials continue to scramble to contain the scandal unleashed by the Supreme Court of Canada decision last month that

reassured elegance lives up to anyone's expectations of an old chief. He addresses criticisms of the Nisga'a deal rhetorically. Opponents bemoan the creation of a Nisga'a government for which non-Nisga'a living on tribal lands will not be allowed to vote. "I must point out that under the current Indian Act, non-natives are not allowed to vote or run for band council," Gossell responds. "So I have to pose the question: what rights are we taking away?" But surely those non-Nisga'a—there are about 150 living among nearly 3,000 Nisga'a in the lush Nass River Valley—going to be facing taxation without representation? "We don't have any taxation over non-natives in Nisga'a lands," Gossell declares. The Nisga'a government is limited to taxing Nisga'a people, although the agreement does say British Columbia and On-

tario must allow the Nisga'a to tax non-native residents—a clause federal officials say is unlikely ever to be used.

While negotiation produced the Nisga'a agreement, litigation is pushing the agenda on the opposite coast. Federal officials continue to scramble to contain the scandal unleashed by the Supreme Court of Canada decision last month that



Nault: a pragmatic politician who believes it is time to start accommodating First Nations

interpreted a 1760 treaty as giving year-round fishing rights to Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy First Nations. Department of Fisheries and oceans officers, backed by Mounties, seized native lobster traps set in Halifax harbour last Thursday, in a bid to prevent another outbreak of clashes between native and non-native fishermen. And on the same day, the Federal Court of Appeal handed the Mi'kmaq a second major victory—ruling that the National Energy Board failed to properly address native concerns when it approved a \$1.7-billion pipeline from Nova Scotia's Sable Island offshore natural gas fields.

While some politicians bemoan the court decisions as judicial hand grenades, Nault cheers the explosions like fireworks. "I don't blame the courts, I blame the governments," he says. "The governments have had a strategy of delay—not willing to accept their responsibility. The courts are telling us what we need to hear." Nault is even inclined to assume that last month's decision on fishing also extends to other resources, possibly logging. And he sees no reason to wait for a legal opinion from the justice department. "So far, justice hasn't been right too often, has it?" he notes. "What I'd like to see is governments take their responsibility and get to the table."

He argues that negotiations—setting for the clarity the Mi'kmaq deal provides—are the only way to put an end to the on-and-off griping the fishing industry. Nault will test his approach this week when he plans to travel to Nova Scotia to meet with all sides. Not everyone will welcome his unabashedly pro-native stance. For Don Cunningham, president of the Yarmouth, N.S.-based West Nova Fishermen's Coalition, the issue comes down to what rules apply to two similar boats setting out from the same docks—one skippered by a white fisherman, the other by a native. "This government can't seem to understand that you can't have two people, in the same line of work, but one with rules applied to them and the other with no rules," Cunningham says. "Our stance is that over-accretion cannot exist."

Even as determined a politician as Nault cannot hope to win the day easily. But the former CP Rail trainman, who was plucked from the back benches in the Jagun cabinet shuffle, is no novice when it comes to native issues. His sprawling Kejaua/Rainy River riding, in northwestern Ontario, contains some of Canada's most troubled Indian country. And in Cree and Ojibwa communities provide some of the saddest examples of native poverty. Nault boasts of traveling regularly to all 51 native communities in his riding since first being elected as MP in 1988. Now, he says he is relying on the patience he learned from elders in his home territory. Asked how they might advise him to proceed these days, he cites "listening first before talking." Imagine what the already outspoken minister might be saying now without their influence. ■



Sitting traps in Nova Scotia, trying to prevent clashes

## Muddying the waters of aboriginal affairs

Native affairs have been in turmoil over the past three years. Highlights:

**December, 1994:** The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples finally issues its report, compiled at a staggering cost of \$56 million, and recommends a massive \$30 billion over 15 years in additional annual spending on native affairs.

**December, 1997:** The Supreme Court of Canada issues its so-called **Delgamuocher** land-claim decision, lowering the definition of aboriginal title. The court rules that aboriginal oral histories are a valid basis for land claims.

**January, 1998:** Then-Indian Affairs Minister Jean Stewart responds to the royal commission by issuing a **Statement of Reconciliation**. It pledges for the residential school system and allocates \$600 million for native initiatives.

**August, 1998:** Ottawa, British Columbia and native leaders signed the **Nisga'a** land claim. The settlement will give the Nisga'a of southern British Columbia \$253 million over 15 years, along with 2,019 square kilometres of land, resource rights and powers of self-government. With 50 other B.C. claims under negotiation, critics worry that the deal clouds the way for a patchwork of self-governing districts.

**September, 1999:** The Supreme Court of Canada rules in the so-called **Marshall** case that a 1760 treaty given Mi'kmaq and other Maritime natives year-round fishing rights. The decision sparks conflict and violence between native and non-native fishermen.

**October, 1999:** The Federal Court of Appeal hands the Mi'kmaq another major victory, ruling that the National Energy Board did not adequately deal with native concerns when it granted a private company rights to build the \$1.7-billion **Sable Island** natural gas pipeline.





## Pay equity at last

Federal public servants finally win their court case, and this time Ottawa may pay instead of fight

By Bruce Wallace in Ottawa

Ron Beauford's name did not come up on Parliament Hill last week. In all the shouting and celebrating and finger-pointing after the Federal Court of Canada handed Ottawa a possible \$5-billion pay-equity bill, no one evoked the name of the Liberal justice minister whose 1978 human rights law triggered this long-running—and very expensive—case. Beauford is 67 years old now, and has been retired from active politics for more than two decades. He lives on British Columbia's Sunshine Coast, where he divides his time, as he puts it, between "tending a very large garden, and trying to catch fish that don't seem to exist." But he has kept an eye on the on/off arguments and court cases that

followed the passage of his bill, in which the Trudeau government laid out the principle that men and women should get equal pay for work of equal value—then stepped back to let the Canadian Human Rights Commission sort out the devilish details. "I will not understand how the process bogged down," Beauford said in an interview last week. "Good God, if Parliament says something should happen, surely it shouldn't take 30 years to implement."

But it did—and only with the help of the courts. The battle began in 1984, when a group of clerical and regulatory employees registered a pay-equity complaint with the commission. It appeared to finally end last week when, in a 50-page judgment, Judge John Trowe said Ottawa should listen to Supreme

Court of Canada administrators that human rights law should be "interpreted in a broad and liberal manner." He then ordered the government to abide by a 1998 Human Rights Tribunal ruling awarding about 200,000 federal civil servants fairly wages, but including several thousand men to qualify an average of just under \$2,000 for every year of government service. With interest, the final bill for the government is expected to fall between \$3.5 billion and \$5 billion.

Most federal employees held their pay at the windfall under wraps last week, at least in public. "Who else came in, as people here were receiving for five minutes, but then the worrying began," says Richard Thibault, 32, a financial clerk at Transport Canada, he stands to receive about \$15,000 in back pay from what he was employed in jobs classified by the human rights commission as "undoubtedly female." But, Thibault adds, "the government has delayed for so long, it might do it again."

John Clithero, Liberal, however, appeared to have little stomach to carry the fight further—in the face of public criticism that they were not living up to

past pledges of equality. Justice department officials went through the motions, examining the Evans ruling to see if there were technical grounds for an appeal to the Supreme Court. But on Friday, the government said it would seek a settlement with its employees' largest union, the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

Most Liberal MPs, including Treasury Board president Lucienne Robitaille, the responsible minister, favoured settling the issue. "It's the cost of justice," Ontario Liberal Gar Knudson bellowed across the Commons' aisle at Reform party MPs who were demanding the government fight on in the name of Canadian taxpayers. And Charbonneau said the only real question left was "how much money has to be paid."

On that point, the government had already set some money aside for this eventually—a sum, according to officials, that exceeds the \$1.3 billion the Liberals offered to PSA/C in an out-of-court settlement last year. Finance department officials, who say it will take about a month to determine which public servants are owed exactly how much, also say they may be able to make the union an offer before the \$5 billion offering. Some of the outlay, meanwhile, will be clawed back in income taxes. And Ottawa can dip into the \$3-billion contingency fund it banks into every budget to help cover unexpected bills that drive the government back into a deficit. "It's a big whack of cash," said one senior Liberal, "but it's not as traumatic as it might seem."

In fact, the outcome—but a no-one—demanded on public funds may actually help Finance Minister Paul Martin beat off the parade of pessimists to his door in the months leading up to next February's budget. Bargaining employees have made it harder for Martin to discourage his fellow Liberals from embarking on a spending spree. "Eighty per cent of our caucus is for the principle of our cost instead of new spending," said one Ontario Liberal MP. "But every one of that 80 per cent has their own special project that they believe deserves funding."

In fact, the Oct. 12 throne speech indicated that Ottawa was ready to get on with it and live it up a bit. And with provincial parliament like Saskatchewan

Ray Romanow also living up to make their claim to most federal funds, most civil servants are demanding their money quickly. "The longer they wait, the more it costs the public," says Janet Mahoney-Ross, 58, who joined the public service as a secretary in 1958 and took early retirement in 1996. Mahoney-Ross figures she will receive between \$30,000 to \$35,000 in back pay. "This has been deserved for a long, long time," she says. "And there are not wealthy people. They've got their expenses and debts. A lot of us women are in need of this money and are anxious. Some have thought of us coming and went out and spent money."

The protracted battle has left many public servants distrustful of the Liberals. As Thibault noted, "This is not only about money. The government made it clear it is an employer that doesn't care." But the public servants' attitude offends many of the pay equity ruling's critics. They argue that the pay equity appeal obscures the fact that Ottawa was not running sweatshops for women in the 1970s and 1980s—government was actually a rare good place for women to work (for many years, the federal civil service offered better conditions, benefits and job security to women than the private sector).

And while it is almost impossible to find anyone to disagree with the principle of pay equity, criticism over the process used to calculate what constitutes equality remains strong. The formula was based on a complex system that first assigned points to jobs, then compared pay in a female-dominated group to all male-dominated jobs in the same point range. In one instance, that resulted in a group of mostly female clerks being compared with a large class of male-dominated jobs that ranged from librarians to radio stars.

Beauford says he has trouble understanding how the process became so convoluted. "I don't think the law itself was wrong," he says—although these years and lawsuits later. "But if it was not workable, or was going to be too expensive, some government somewhere along the line should have just amended the law. Parliament should have spelled it out—rather than let this go on for 20 years."

With Leah Luby in Ottawa

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# The CBC's new boss

By Anthony Wilson-Smith

It was a real eye-opener of a wake-up call—but Bob Rabinovitch isn't complaining. Two weeks ago, the Montreal native and his wife, Cecil, were on vacation in Hawaii when the telephone rang in their hotel room at 3 a.m. Rabinovitch snapped awake when the caller turned out to be an operator in Jean Charest's office, asking him to hold for the Prime Minister. Charest then offered Rabinovitch, 56, currently chief operating officer at Charles Bronfman's Clardge Inc., the job of president and CEO of the CBC. When he awoke the next morning, Rabinovitch recalled last words, his first words to Cecil were, "I should I say yes."

In fact, Rabinovitch admits, he had little doubt he would take the job if it was offered. As he prepares to assume his duties on Nov. 15, he says cheerfully that he "let it be known in the proper circles I would be interested" when it became clear earlier this year that outgoing CBC president Perrin Beatty would not be reappointed. In recent months, Rabinovitch says, he had a series of talks with government officials. He will not name, but adds "their tone was by-the-book, and the job was never offered as such." A highly regarded federal civil servant before joining Clardge in 1987, Rabinovitch has been rumored for various appointments since the Liberals came to power in 1993. At that time, he was first sounded out about the CBC job—and said no. "I will had several specific unmet goals in the private sector," he explains, "so it didn't make sense."

Some might argue it still makes no sense. Rabinovitch is leaving a self-described "dream job" at Clardge at a salary estimated to be several times the approximately \$229,000 he will now receive. The new job brings constant cross-country travel, and a mandate to oversee perhaps the most beleaguered public institution in the country. The CBC was under sharply declining audiences, deep budget cuts, must layoffs and an often hostile relationship with the Prime Minister's Office.

For all that, Rabinovitch declares he is a "delighted"—and a work ethic of advisors say CBC employees and supporters should feel the same. "Bob is the perfect guy at the perfect time for this job," enthuses Toronto lawyer and entertainment power broker Michael Levine, a longtime friend. "He understands the way things work, whether it's politics, power, culture or straight technology." And, says Charles Bronfman, his soon-to-be former employer, "he one works harder than Bob, and no one at a quicker study of people and things."

In his first weeks after taking the job, Rabinovitch gave a clear sense of his plans for the CBC, including more emphasis on making services—and less on striking new ones, which was a strategy Beatty advocated. "We can't beat things at all times to everyone," he said. "We must focus on the strengths we have, and enhance them." In an interview with *Maclean's*, Rabinovitch underscored these points:

● Sports will remain on the CBC, despite critics who want them dropped. The network's sports coverage is "essential, well-coordinated,

and sports like hockey are part of what binds us."

● The CBC's regional news—which attracts very low ratings in many areas—may be in jeopardy. "Local news coverage is frankly one thing we have to evaluate closely."

● The CBC may turn out transmission of programs to the private sector, and concentrate on programming. "Who can do that most cost-effectively?" asks Rabinovitch rhetorically. "That will determine our answer."

● Prime-time content should be anyone Canadian, but may not be exclusively so. "I know the CBC now says prime time is all Canadian, but that's disingenuous when you consider the American movies they also air," says Rabinovitch. "Quality should matter as much as origin in programming."

● The bilingually bilingual Rabinovitch says he understands complaints that French-language Radio-Canada has a separate bias, but does not go that far himself. "Radio-Canada journalists are pro," he says. "They can be non-partisan at times, but not separately." But, Rabinovitch adds, "I have sometimes become very annoyed watching their news."

If precedent is any example, Rabinovitch may spend more time warring with internal CBC politics than programming. Beatty's reign was lobbied by battles with chairwoman Gayle Stanek, who is well-connected with the Liberals. She lobbied Charest to fire Beatty, then undermined the president's remaining authority. Stanek's candidate to replace Beatty was James McConkey, the incumbent chief operating officer who



Rabinovitch  
I want to be  
full time for  
the public  
good—and  
not the CBC  
does that

Bob Rabinovitch says Canada's beleaguered public broadcaster must build on its strengths—and not try to be all things to all people

was badly injured in an automobile accident last January.

Despite shared roots in Montreal's business community, Rabinovitch says he met Stanek for the first time after his appointment. "We have no politics," he says. He then adds with a laugh: "We may in future, but not yet." In fact, Stanek has said that after devoting full-time efforts to her CBC job, she will cut back to a part-time role. If so, that meets a recommendation by Al Johnson, a highly respected former CBC president who served from 1975-1982. Johnson, who headed the top public broadcaster in other countries function, says the chairman position should be a part-time job. "The

chairman should do the political lobbying, and let the president run the network," he notes.

Rabinovitch insists he has "no political affiliation," but also has no shortage of Liberal connections. One close friend is Eddie Goldenberg, Charest's senior adviser and after 1993. "I can't say how often we'll see each other, because I don't know the answer," says Rabinovitch. And there is his long mentor in Ottawa. Rabinovitch began as an aide to secretary of state Gerard Pelletier in the mid-1960s before becoming a non-partisan civil servant in 1968. He stayed in Ottawa until 1986, rising to be, among other things, a

deputy minister of communications under the Liberals, and a senior assistant secretary to the cabinet under Conservative prime minister Joe Clark in 1979.

But in 1983, less than a year after the Tories returned to power, Rabinovitch found himself out of a job because of his presumed Liberal ties. He moved back to Montreal, to oversee Clardge's variety of holdings—including some in the television and telecommunications industry. One crucial responsibility was to help groom Rabinovitch's son Stephen for the top job.

These years with Clardge, friends say, helped prepare Rabinovitch well for his new duties. "Bob doesn't need the money," says one friend. "That gives great freedom to do as he wants." Adds Ted Johnson, a senior executive with Power Corp., and longtime adviser to Pierre Trudeau: "This is a man with remarkable people skills, strategic vision, and understanding of technology. But no one should be fooled by the charm—

he is as tough as he has to be."

Rank-and-file CBC employees appear enthusiastic about their new boss. In the early days following the appointment, said one longtime employee, "he has been saying and doing all the right things." That sentiment won't last forever, given conflicting pressures of the job. But Rabinovitch says that some elements will not change. "I believe in public government funded broadcasting and I will fight for that," he declares. "I am at a stage of life where I want to work full time for the public good—and for me, the CBC does that." All he has to do is convince more viewers, many critics and the PMO to feel the same. ■





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## Canada

cland Justice Minister Lucie Gauthier in the aftermath of the previous appeal. And Pierre Lucien Boivin, an *Los Angeles* resident, denied the suggestion that the PQ had deliberately lost the case. He also reaffirmed his government's commitment to defend the French language. "You don't have to be a rocket scientist," he declared, "to realize that French will always be threatened."

For lawyer David Tyler, who represented Sargeant and Hoffmann, civil rights is the issue. For too long, he maintains, Quebec anglophones have sacrificed those rights for the sake of Canadian unity, not pushing their demands for law of provincial sovereignty. Tyler now has seven other suits law in motion, pending. He insists that polls show the vast majority of Quebecers do not have a problem "with what we're proposing: require French—and allow other languages of equal size at the option of the merchants." But while some anglophone activists agonized and some sovereignty fanatics fumed, reactions among other Quebecers, both English and French, appeared muted.

Gary Richards, the president of the English-rights "Townshipers' Association, predicts Quebecers won't spend much time in the barricades because of the ruling. "There is no stomach for the language debate any longer in either French or English Quebec," he contends. In calls to one francophone Montreal radio talk show, people simply reaffirmed the necessity to protect the French language, not co-host Jean Lapierre. "The real of this case will take at least five years," he roared. "We'll deal with it down the road."

That point is also made by provincial Liberal caucus chairman Jacques Chagnon, who doubts that Miquelon will be able to raise on the issue—or least in the short term. "For so long as the dossier will be in court," Chagnon insists, "there's not a lot of room to make political hay out of it." The provincial Liberals, however,

know first-hand the flakpoint potential of the language issue. In 1989, for example, 30,000 people took to the streets in Montreal to demand the creation of French-only signs. Language questions, Chagnon acknowledges, "are always dangerous."

But the more immediate prospect of referendum legislation from Ottawa clearly rattles provincial Liberals' nerves. "It's the federal government file that scares us the most," concedes Chagnon—and several federal Liberals, including Quebec and Ontario MPs, agree his means. Let sleeping dogs lie is the refrain among many Liberals who fear that a move by Ottawa would help accelerate the sovereignty movement. "The majority of the constitution is in my riding just wants us to leave things alone," says Montreal-area Liberal MP Nick Desrosiers. Noting some-  
enough law support in recent polls, Desrosiers adds, "If we give them any emotional issue that they can sort of latch on to, my fear is that those emotions will be stirred up to the point where either Boivin or Chagnon will call a snap election or a referendum."

He cites the success of the Quebec government's incremental approach to problem-solving—the so-called moderate Plan A (as opposed to the headline Plan B, with its threats of tough negotiations and economic disaster after a No vote). "In my opinion, Plan A is the right approach," says Desrosiers, "because you've got to appeal to the masses—the heart of people in order to have them tremble in Canada." Sobering by Ottawa—not to mention constitutional court rulings against legislation intended to protect the French language—could have the opposite effect. Sargeant, meanwhile, knows the sign says will disappear, but she and Hoffmann plan to fight ahead. "We had to have the courage of our convictions that this is the right thing to do," she says. "What is less clear for Quebecers, at the moment, is how the case will moderate politically." ■



Gauthier, minister



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#### In the running

Former B.C. Finance Minister Joy MacPhail announced she will seek the leadership of the provincial NDP. She would face "a no-doubter than Glen Clark"—the scandal-plagued former premier who resigned in August. MacPhail, who left cabinet a month before Clark's resignation, is the second New Democrat in the running (Agriculture Minister Carly Evans previously declared his candidacy).

#### Out of the cabinet

After weeks of facing accusations of improper behaviour, Ontario's minister of municipal affairs, Steve Gilchrist, resigned from the cabinet, still insisting he had done no wrong. Police said it would be at least another week before they finished investigating allegations that Gilchrist had tried to limit government business to a friend.

#### Historical windfall

Philanthropist Charles Bronfman, chairman of New York City-based Seagram Co. Ltd., announced a \$25-million donation to Historia, a new Canadian history foundation. Bronfman, who moved from Montreal to New York 25 years ago, said he has "a great and abiding love" for Canada.

#### A tax-free future?

Alberta Treasurer Snodgrass Day upped the ante in the tax-cutting debate by saying his province could someday be in a position to abolish income tax. Day speaking to students at Macdonald's McGill University, said, "It would be wonderful if people were not being punished because they work."

#### A dissident under fire

Dundee Reform MP Jake Hooper is facing accusations that he insulted a colleague during a Sept. 22 public meeting in Winnipeg. Irby Mack, Reform MP for Dauphin, Man., who filed a complaint with the RCMP alleges "indecent behaviour" on the part of Hooper, whose Mack also accused of insulting a letter criticising his speaking. Hooper, elected from the Reform caucus in July because of his combative criticism of leader Preston Manning, denied the allegations.

## Canada Notes

### Still haunted by the APEC affair

Echoes of the past haunted Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's trip to British Columbia. When he addressed a \$400-a-plate dinner in Vancouver for Liberal supporters, protesters besieged him—although in much fewer numbers than last year when a large demonstration turned ugly. Then, in last week, the demonstrators were part of the groups that organized protests at the November, 1997, summit of APEC nations. And hanging over the West Coast visit were contrasting questions about the Prime Minister's alleged involvement in security preparations for that summit, when human rights protesters were arrested and pepper-sprayed by RCMP riot squads.

Chrétien reacted tensely when reporters asked whether he would clarify at the ongoing RCMP Public Complaints Commission inquiry into the APEC fiasco—chaired by former



Jac. Chrétien protesters question over security

B.C. conflict of interest commissioner Ted Hughes. "I've never been asked to testify," he said. "I don't reply to hypothetical questions." Newly released transcripts of taped telephone calls, among senior RCMP officers, meanwhile, suggested they were under the impression that Chrétien was directly involved in the security planning. But the lawyer for the Hughes inquiry said the documents did not contain any "smoking gun" to implicate the Prime Minister.

### A throne speech for all seasons

In its speech from the throne, Ontario's Conservative government laid out key points in what Premier Mike Harris has called the *Common Sense Revolution* Two. Among the wide-ranging highlights: proposals for a provincial repatriation of tax offenders, a personal bill of rights and a plan for a new high-tech BIC and for Christians to use in their dealings with the government. The Tories also promised legislation "to crack down on aggressive people who harass and badger women and to stop aggressive pushbacking."

### The Airbus web

Brian Mulroney threatened to sue CBC-TV's 50th anniversary celebration of a documentary on the Airbus affair if it proved to be defamatory. But the half-hour segment concentrated on the dealings of Katherine Schreiber, now facing conviction in Germany on suspicion of tax evasion. According to the show, some of Schreiber's commissioners from the 1988 sale of Airbus jets

to Air Canada went into a Swiss bank account with the code name "Brenus." That name could have referred to Mulroney, said barrister Linden MacIntyre, but he insisted there is no evidence the former prime minister over knew of the accounts, which could have been set up by Schreiber as a tax scam. The show also featured Mulroney spokesman Luc Lavoie calling Schreiber a "f---ing liar." Lavoie said he was quoted out of context.



# Millennium COUNTDOWN

As the big night nears, revellers plan where to party while police fear violence and Y2K chaos

By Barry Carne in London

**Bruce Beach** has peered into the future, catching a glimpse of the fate he believes lies in wait for mankind. His is an uttering vision, the darker shade of millenarian prophecy, avoiding computer meltdowns, civil war, nuclear winter. Unlike many a fellow seer, however, the 65-year-old has been actively dealing with his fears for much of his life. The results are scattered across the American Midwest, in more than 20 abandoned bunkers crumbling to dust in his native Kansas. But Beach's masterwork rose 90 km north of Toronto, near the town of Homing's Mills, where the affable, bespectacled, retired teacher has spent the past 20 years burying 42 school

buses four metres beneath southern Ontario's rolling hills. The buses, cemented together, form a vast underground shelter, 900 square metres of datap rooms, dim corridors and filled with seats built to withstand whatever the millennium might have in store, including nuclear war.

A "cataclysmic event" is looming, in Beach's view. And he has a hunch that it might be triggered this coming New Year's Eve, when computer systems around the planet fall prey to Y2K—the infamous "millennium bug"—and fail to recognize the advent of the year 2000. "There could be a cascading effect," says Beach in his reasonable, soft-spoken manner, the notes he used when he taught computer science. "One computer sends off the wrong data to another, then another eventually one shuts down and the others overload." The result, according to Beach, is likely to be serious, particularly in urban areas, with power outages, heating breakdowns, perhaps even wars. "It'll be a fairly," he muses, "and I see living in a city as a high-rise apartment building and had, say, \$100,000 in the bank. I would take my family to my shelter, just to be safe."

To date, Beach has not exactly been overwhelmed by a rash

Planned interior of the Millennium Dome at Greenwich's nearby festival



of those seeking haven from the coming millennium woes. True, there have been inquiries from varied bands of Christian fundamentalists, roughly four or five a day to the new year approach. And Beach, who gained a measure of notoriety in the 1980s for heading an ocean search firm that went bust while using government tax credits to build a high-tech ship, has even exchanged a dozen e-mails over the past year with the Ontario Provincial Police, who have been looking for "a secure compound" to harbour officials' families in case of catastrophe. For there is a trace of fever in the air, a Millennium Madness that is maturing across the globe as the big day nears.

The occasion is likely to be festive for most, a moment to jointly commemorate 2,000 years of the Christian epoch. The fact that licensing authorities just about everywhere are suspending normal bar closing hours seems calculated to add to the fest, not to mention the traditional post-New Year's Eve blues. Greenwich, just downstream from London's Big Ben, is the astronomically correct place to mark the dawn of the new millennium since it is the house of mean time, the device used to calibrate clocks wherever the Gregorian calendar is observed. But the party will already be well under way long before Big Ben begins to chime.

**Out in the Pacific Ocean**, the sun will appear, watched by anyone with pockets deep enough to afford a berth aboard a half-dozen liners crisscrossing the international date line. For the most adventurous, it is possible to hitch a ride on a ship's back to glimpse the rising sun a full 15 minutes before it slips south land anywhere. Further west, you can play tag with the sun aboard a Concordia, follow it on South Africa's Blue Train or watch it from mountaintops—Te Mata Peak in New Zealand or Kilimanjaro in Africa. It can be viewed while listening to a nightingale opera beside the Great Pyramid in Egypt, dancing atop the Kennedy Center in Washington or dining at the elegant "Paris d'Angkor" overlooking Notre Dame cathedral in Paris. D'Angkor project overlooking the world's largest lens wheel in London, the largest clock in Tallinn in Estonia, the largest globe in Swedish Lapland and the largest model of a dinosaur in Dinorthis, Als.

Shame it all on St. Augustine, says Jane Towell of the University of Western Ontario, a professor of Old English and medieval studies. It was the fourth-century cleric, the

## The adventurous can ride on a skydiver's back to glimpse the rising sun 15 minutes before its rays touch any land

initiation, "who conceived this notion, which the Christian church has been hanging on to ever since, that the millennium is with us all the time. That we live in all the time because the millennium is our internal balance between good and evil." What is undeniably true is that millennial events have the power to capture the public imagination, even if the pagan aspect that, since there was no prior event, the end millennium does not begin until 2001.

The coming celebrations, however, are causing concern among some of authority across the globe, especially in places held sacred by Christians, or even their pagan forebears. British police have set up a special unit for a New Year's Eve patrol of Stonehenge, whose unique pillars predict the birth of Christ by some 3,000 years. Spanish police have tripled the normal contingent on duty at Santiago de Compostela, destination for millions of marching pilgrims since

he says. "It's a worldwide trend. It's nothing new—what is new is our awareness and vigilance about the threat."

Companies, too, are heeding some anxiety. Major chemical plants in Europe and North America plan to suspend operations on New Year's Eve as a precaution against toxic accidents and production: foul-ups. The Bank of England has warned \$125 billion worth of 10- and 20-pound notes in caches around Britain in anticipation of a huge surge in demand at automated cash dispensers. Canadian airlines say they, too, will have plenty of cash on hand. Virtually all of the globe's major air carriers are cancelling flights due to their, or their passengers', concerns about Y2K. Air Canada says it will shut down most of its domestic schedule from 6 p.m. local time on Dec. 31 to noon on Jan. 1, largely due to lack of demand, although it will maintain key international routes.

**The main problem**, of course, is the notorious millennium bug, the glitch that dates from the early years of the computer era when programmers chose to save precious memory by representing dates with only the last two digits of the year. Despite extensive preparations, especially in North America and Europe, no one is still quite sure what will happen when the 00 pops up on the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31. Not every computer may recognize the numbers as the beginning of the year 2000. In a flurry of studies recently by the British foreign office and the U.S. state and transportation departments, the most concern centered on computer systems controlling critical public facilities in Russia, China and parts of Africa.

But aside from the bug, there is the sheer scale of the festivities planned to welcome the new millennium. In London, three million people are expected to throng the banks of the Thames to watch a 60-m-tall wall of flame shoot up the river at 1,240 knots from Big Ben to the new, \$1.8-billion Millennium Dome, smack on the prime meridian in Greenwich. More than half a million are likely to join Times Square in New York City to see Mayor Rudolph Giuliani preside the bunnies to drop the traditional ball, this year a 225-lb clunk of Waterford Crystal. In Washington, Giuliani's likely opponent for the New York Senate seat, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, will host an anticipated crowd of 600,000 on The Mall for a daytime celebration highlighted by Steven Spielberg's new film on the past century, *Unbroken Journey*.

Canadians can choose from a host of local celebrations, or watch a marathon 26-hour CBC production that will follow the new day around the globe. That program, like the millennium itself, will commence at 5 a.m. eastern standard time in Canada, midnight on the international date line in the Pacific Ocean. Exactly who will be first to glimpse the dawn of the next thousand years, however, remains a matter of some debate. A quartet of Pacific island nations are jostling for the honour. Tiny Kiribati is one, with a claim based on the country's more unilateral decision to shift the date line westwards,



just beyond the edge of the uninhabited soil of Caroline Island. But most authorities are accepting the verdict of the Royal Geographical Society, which has pinpointed New Zealand—not, to be precise, Hahoneg Hill on Pitt Island in the Chatham archipelago.

**As for major centres**, there is no debate that the first city into the millennium will be Gibsons, on New Zealand's North Island. Then, near dawn 70 camera crews will patrol university wards on New Year's Eve, eager to document the birth of the millennium's first baby. Civic festivities will include a midnight mass marriage and a bedside down concert of classical and traditional Maori music performed by

Gibson on his bumper preparing for a tumultuous event.

Gibson's own Kin To Kaitiwa. There may be a few Canadians in the crowd. New Zealand-born, Vancouver-based interior designer Virginia Richards and her husband, John, an ophthalmologist, have planned a trip for themselves and 34 of their friends to witness the sun rising over her native country. "Seeing the new year dawn before anyone else was a big deal for us to organize that trip," explains Richards. "We ordered three cribs for the evening so people can phone home long before New Year's happens in North America."

In fact, there is no shortage of ways to celebrate the new year. Virtually every major hotel on the planet has a Millennium Eve special, often throwing in a book of French champagne, which, makers say, is in no danger of running out, despite rumours. It is even possible to celebrate twice on the same day, for anyone willing to pay \$8,500 for a tour organized by a London-based firm. It begins with a banquet on Stone, one of the first places to glimpse the dawn, and ends with a reggae performance on nearby Stone, across the distance, the last place on earth to see the setting sun on Dec. 31.

Yet while the rich may jet around the globe, many others will party at home. Canadian travel industry representatives say there is no unusual volume of year-end travel bookings. A recent poll by the U.S. Travel Industry Association found that more than 60 per cent of Americans had no plans to leave town for the holiday. Along with the lives, the University of Western Ontario Toledo says the decade "a sense of exhaustion" about the millennium. "People are tired of it," she says, "and just want it over with." Maybe so. But given the buildup, there's a good chance they are not as tired now as they are going to be on New Year's Day, 2000.

With Susan McCallum on Toronto

## A cross-Canada celebration

It will begin on a remote lighthouse cove, a 20-minute drive from St. John's, Nfld. Cape Spear, North America's northernmost point, will host the continent's first millennium countdown party.

Between there will be linked via TV to a harbourfront celebration in St. John's and live to New York in a hookup with Times Square as fireworks will wowwow. On the latter Hill in Ottawa, an \$833,000 tentatively conceived theatrical celebration will cap the last hour of 1999. Toronto

will launch 10 billion of fireworks over the CN Tower, and those who can't afford the typically \$2,000-per-couple gala at a five-star hotel can check out

The Imaginably Big at the Air Canada Centre for a mere \$99. "Winto peppers" will march on Millennium Eve outdoors, despite expected minus-30 weather, with dog sleds, ice sculpting and concerts. Elvis Presley, an ordained Anglican minister and Elvis impersonator, will sing, then don robes at midnight to oversee the wedding vows of

hundreds of couples. In Calgary, up to 4,000 will dance the night away in downtown Stampede Park while country fans flock to Olympic Plaza for a Madhatter's Whig concert. Vancouverites not taking the heavy of harbour cruises may find themselves at a visual and performing arts festival at grade-school Science World.

Millennial couch potatoes will be able to catch a lot of this on the box. The CBC's marathon 26-hour live broadcast, hosted by Peter Mansbridge, will, as part of a 56-year country marathon, broadcast countdowns from all over the world and provide four locations from Canada—St. John's,

Susan Ols

Times Square celebrations, here will stay open extra late

the Middle Ages. The Italians are doing the same in Rome. Nowhere is the concern more evident than in Israel, where more than three million tourists are expected to visit Holy Land into next year. In a portrait of what may be ahead, the nervous Israeli have already expelled two Christian groups, including a hapless community of 25 Irish pilgrims under the armchairs, who were then subsequently bounced with undue ceremony from Cyprus and Greece.

Canada, too, is hearing for the worst: Project Solstice was quietly established last December. It is a joint intelligence operation, drawing upon assets from the RCMP, the defence department, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and a private security firm. The project's mandate is to "determine the potential for critical targeting and exploitation of the year 2000 vulnerabilities, by organized crime, terrorists, criminals and/or criminal sponsors of civil unrest." RCMP Sp. Chuck Whang, the Solstice team leader, says the unit is working closely with U.S. authorities. "I think there is a threat,"

# CAUGHT UP IN TIME

By Robert Sheppard

**Must hurry, must hurry.** There is no time. The millennium is upon us and there is so much to do, so much to make sense of. A thousand years. How do you mark something like that—a party, a moment, a reflection? When did time begin anyway? Long ago in a galaxy far away? Or in the steady drip-drip-drip of the first water clock somewhere along the Nile in the dawn of night? Shakespeare thought he knew. When he wrote in 1599 that the world was "almost six thousand years old," he said it with the worldly certainty of an Elizabethan. But that

Step. Let's not give in to nostalgia. There is too much of that just now. It is as if North Americans have stopped packing for tomorrow. The 20th century began with a burst of science and optimism. Successive world's fairs sought to showcase the mechanical might-be of something called The Future. Early editions of that magazine, founded in 1905, were devoted to the buoyancy of what lay ahead, the onslaught of the automobile and high-button shoes. A *Motor* mid-century roundup in 1955 continued to pore mystically at moving sidewalks, graces that would create traffic jams in the sky during rush hour, a 20-hour work week and robotic factories that "will practically run themselves."

Who predicts the future now? Sure, science burges above like the Mad Hatter, barreling rationally into genetic codes, into wicket's warms. But the world more of us inhabit seems strangely mooned. Is this just aging but over-inflated booster taking stock, trying valiantly to slow down their lives? Or might it come from the millennium's self-changing, like some disease mad sign finally having its new?

Of course, The Millennium is a Western conceit. Why should we imbue it with any particular significance? There are other calendars still in use. The year 2000 will be 1420 in the Muslim calendar, 5760 in the Hebrew world, the year of the rabbit in China, which has an entirely different—optical—way of looking at time. The Western calendar has been rearranged on at least five major occasions, six if you count the relatively short-lived calendar of the French Revolution. Great whacks of days, occasionally years, have been lopped off with the stroke of a pen to make the thing sensible. So the notion of, say, one continuing line from the birth of China—wherever that was



Chaplin in *Modern Times*: Humans seem to have their own computerized need to clarify, to impose meaning.

emerge—to Dec. 31, 1999 (a year early, if you really want 2,000 years), requires a singular leap of faith to begin with.

What's more, nature knows no division by thousands, as Harvard biologist Stephen Jay Gould has noted. On the other hand, Gould says, nature does have its mathematical classifications and, more in point, humans seem to have their own computerized need to clarify, to impose meaning. So a thousand years? A millennial moment? Why not? Even if it is just a pinch of time in a long, tangled and only occasionally noble slice.

Let's set the table. The first millennium AD—or CE, Common Era, as the new classifiers would have it—belongs to China (the most cultured state, the most technically advanced with a library to die for). It is also the realm of Arab mystics, the birth of Islam, the Roman Catholic Church, the longevity of sin, the evolving power of the printed word, heretic cultures reaching out, mostly to war, sometimes to touch. There was more, but it is our millennium (a modest conceit that would be unknown to our forebears) that is in

the spotlight. This is Europe in the worldweave, the Crusades, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the age of nations, sea travel on a grand scale, the New World, the birth of the novel, the Industrial Revolution, Karl Marx, psychoanalysis, Albert Einstein, world wars, Auschwitz, penicillin, the bomb, Mao Tse-tung, rock 'n' roll, the sexual revolution, space travel, AIDS, Chernobyl, the Internet and, of course, the computer chip—a piece of silicon, the world literally is a grain of sand.

Thus is the millennium where events really start to smoke. Time itself undergoes a transformation. By the 1700s, calendars and the Arabic zero finally became enmeshed in Western consciousness. The 1800s vetted the rule of the clock—schedules, the glib folded pocket watch, mechanical time, the birth of the weekend. Time became a commodity, as Charlie Chaplin underscored in *Modern Times*, his slyric run-in with The Machine. As modern humans, we develop Punctuality, enough at least to attend to secular ceremonies, to be able to move how did we are (a relatively recent condition), to

We've imagined it for years. Now it's here. What does the millennial turn of the Western calendar really represent?

was before carbon dating, the extraction of DNA from long-ago fossils, and sky-borne telescopes that can detect the backdrops of exotic light rays from billions of years past. In other words, before the ground beneath us shifted.

Just as we think we know what is going on, some new discovery pushes the age of the world, of the universe, of humanity, back ever further into the mists of time. Today's day is almost a 10th of a second longer than at the time of the pharaohs (slower rotation of the Earth). The stars in the night sky have relocated since the Babylonians inverted the ecliptic, rendering today's horizon-scopes hopelessly out of date. "Aah! it funny," the philosopher-crowder Willie Nelson once sang, "how time slips away."



Gathering at Stonehenge:  
the Sphinx in Egypt, monuments  
that reflect Deep Time

## From the earliest human civilizations, there has been a constant impulse to leave some lasting testament

mark even such trivial occasions in the chronicle of decades "In one era and out the other," as Marshall McLuhan once said.

We also make the most of time. Marching. On, arm-in-arm with Science. Progress (and its evil step-sibling Decadence). The fruits of this march are pretty impressive: democracy, human rights, the rule of law, near-universal education, the changing role of women in society. But there is a downside: environmental degradation, cultural and species extinction on a noticeable scale, children shooting children. And time speeds up, everything spoofs up, can, actually, compare that perform in museums, political discourse that is reduced to six-second sound bites, even the amount of time someone is likely to stay in a job.

We are embarrassed now, at the end of the 20th century, with the North American economy sliding over as smoothly as a Japanese automobile, to be reminded that this has been the bloodiest century on record, that more lives have been lost to human hands in the past 100 years than at any other comparable time. "If I had to sum up the 20th century," said the late British novelist E.M. Forster, "I would say that it raised the greatest hopes ever conceived by humanity, and destroyed all of them and ideas."

**Kilroy was here.** And here and here. Pious the outdoor civilizational fire and air thousand years ago, there has been a constant impulse to leave some lasting testament that would outlive the petty human occasion. The most reliably dur-



man-made structure in North America is a 5,400-year-old earthen mound in Louisiana. No one knows what it was for. It is almost a thousand years older than the Great Pyramid of Giza, 1,600 years older than Stonehenge. To Gregory Benford, a physicist and time traveler at the University of California at Irvine, these monuments reflect what he calls Deep Time—the attempt by humanity to communicate across millennia.

Stone, says Benford, is still the best deep-time investment. Stone last. Think what the poet Lord Byron thought, too, and Giovanni Belzoni, a 19th-century circus strongman—both with a penchant for carving their names in the ancient monuments of Greece and Egypt. Machibiding across time: What are today's deep-time commitments? Disney World (will it last a thousand years)? The space missions, slithering mostly through largely worthless darkness? The Pioneer space probe in the early 1970s, the first to leave our Solar System, carried modest shantimental plaques with a sketch of two humans gazing infinity with a hopeful wave. The Cassini mission to Saturn in 1997 contained a video disk with 616,403 signatures from members of the Planetary Society—Kilroyism run amok.

Those of us who can't afford a monument might consider a time capsule, the most personalized deep-time fid that has become one of the great clichés of this century. Began in the 1930s, time capsules have been a regular feature of sacrosanct world fairs. In one, in Seville, Spain, in 1992, visitors

were invited to throw mementos of their everyday lives into an open jar for posterity. There is a catch, though, notes the International Time Capsule Society: there are roughly 10,000 time capsules, some including everything from Pop Tarts and frozen TV sets to videotape, buried around the world. But most of them are lost. People forget where they bury things. The cast of the *Adventures* television show buried a set of tapes and videotapes somewhere on the 20th Century Fox parking lot in Hollywood in 1983. These now appear to be submerged beneath a deep hole.

One candidate for deep-time consideration put forward by The Long Now Foundation, a San Francisco-based group devoted to thinking about time in a different (slower) way, is the Shinto shrine at Ise, Japan. A modest log structure on stilts, first erected in AD 4, it is reconstructed and rebuilt every 20 years. Unlike Stonehenge and the pyramids, the impermanence of the shrine has helped sustain the survival of its adherents. The least have faith survives. And habit and storytelling.

**Never underestimate** the power of the story. In Christian mythology, the millennium refers to the thousand-year reign of Christ (or his church). At the end of that time, the Devil rises up from his lair and with the aid of a group of bad guys begins a monumental fight for supremacy, complete with demonic plague and pestilence, only to be defeated when a vengeful Christ comes down to crush on his white charger, smites his enemies, casts the righteous dead on the Day of Judgment and banishes the Devil forever to a "sea of fire and brimstone." The Second Coming. The apocalypse. The end of the world as we know it.

This is a story that goes back at least 2,000 years, has echoes in other cultures—Mesopotamia, even the Mayan calendar, which predicts a return to earth of intergalactic space travelers only in the 21st century, according to some—and has resonated through the ages. It is the story of the "Chosen," some scholars say the early Christians trying to establish their church, later the Protestant reformers and headstrong sect trying to establish their legitimacy. And it may even have had roots in a real event: an uprising against Rome by Jewish rebels around AD 70 that left directly to the sacking of Jerusalem and the leveling of Herod's temple. Around that time, Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying Pompeii and filling the atmosphere in Europe and the Middle East with so much soot that the sun was deflected and the moon appeared to be red like blood.

Historians have tended to view millenniums (as end-of-world believers are called) as part of the fanatic fringe. But that may be to miss the impact of a myth that has often grabbed humanity by the throat. The Crusades were launched (AD 1095) in large measure to prepare Jerusalem for the Second Coming. In 1492—believing that the end of the world was about 150 years away—Christopher Columbus set out to fulfill a biblical prophecy and set the stage for China's ruin. Some Americans believe that in the 1860s and '70s, many North American Indians married these apoca-

lyptic Christian visions to their own (the arrival of the Ghost Dance) in the ill-fated belief they would be immune to the white man's bullets. Hides, of course, contemplated his own millennium—the thousand-year Reich.

**Endings. Beginnings.** Fresh starts. These are what the year 2000 represents. It is one of history's finest days: the year 1000 passed with relatively little apocalyptic fervor; most scholars believe, save for some crazed peasant rebellions in parts of Germany and central France; calendars were not an everyday thing in those days; life had a brutal but comforting routine. Modern humans, whupped by incessant change and an almost pathologically short attention span, have no time for the big Moment. Yet we live in a culture



Christmas march in Jerusalem: the power of a story

that believes fundamentally in second chances, in live-life-start-over and the pure justice of the political or competitive comeback.

Mind you, ends and beginnings produce their own anxieties. We know from the health statistics that suicides, depressions and family violence spike upwards in December and January as the calendar makes its own. Many of us are going to have a hard time coping with the weight of millennial institutions. In the latter half of the 20th century, the year 2000 has come to represent The Future: it has been the target date for worthy goals and personal objectives. Successive generations of schoolchildren, probably from the 1930s on, have solemnly calculated how old they would be when 2000 rolled around. It is one of those rare events that transcend generational angst. Yet it may not be the date itself that begs the celebration or the momentous-builder's hammer. The real celebration may simply be that the millennium is one of history's life gifts, an excuse to indulge in some personal contemplation and revel in the notion that time does, well, march on. ■

# The nuclear legacy

Declassified documents reveal how widely Washington deployed atomic weapons

By Andrew Phillips in Washington

Canada's history as a staging area for nuclear weapons was shrouded in secrecy for decades, but to the people of a small town in Quebec it struck all too close to home. Just before 4 p.m. on Nov. 10, 1950, St-Alexandre-de-Kamouraska on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River near Quebec City was rocked by an explosion. Townsfolk saw a thick cloud of yellow smoke spiraling up 1,000 m above the middle of the river, which is 20 km wide at that point. Then came the low rumble that shook houses for 40 km around. It was 40 years before officials finally admitted what had happened: a U.S. Air Force plane had accidentally detonated an atomic bomb over Canada.

Fortunately, the weapon's plutonium-uranium core was not present. What exploded so dramatically over the St. Lawrence was a 2,200-kg chemical charge used to detonate the Mark IV bomb, dropped by a U.S. Air Force B-50 bomber that had run into trouble during a flight from Goose Bay, Labrador, to the United States. It was the height of the Cold War, and the Pentagon concocted a bogus cover story about small bombs being jettisoned into the river to explain away the explosion that shook St-Alexandre. The true story came to light only in the 1990s, as the full course of Canada's involvement with U.S. nuclear weapons became known. Now, a new study by three American researchers, based on previously secret Pentagon documents and published in *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, makes clear that Canada hosted five kinds of U.S. nukes over more than three decades—from 1950 to 1984.

The most controversial part of the study details where U.S. nuclear weapons were deployed outside the continental United States during most of the Cold War. Based on a declassified Pentagon battery, it shows that some 12,000 weapons and components were stored in at least 23 countries and five U.S. territories—sometimes without the knowledge of their hosts. Washington deployed weapons in such sensitive places as Japan, Taiwan, Iceland and Greenland, a territory of Denmark. Those countries all disavowed nuclear weapons and, publicly at least, did not even allow them to be stored on their territory. The United States also deployed nuclear bombs in Mexico in the mid-1950s without telling the French government, Morocco's colonial master at the time. And it stored nuclear-capable depth charges at its base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from 1961 to 1965—a period that covered the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.



Diefenbaker:  
Bombers nearby  
Dief hesitated to  
equip them with  
nuclear bombs



Much of what the Pentagon documents confirms was already known as widely assumed by experts. But it adds many details to one of the murkier chapters of the Cold War, showing that Washington spread its nuclear arms to corners of the world. The policy was known as "forward deployment"—having weapons close to the Soviet Union and China so they could be used more effectively in case of all-out war. Robert Norris, senior research analyst at the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington and co-author of last week's study, says the documents underline the scale of the U.S. effort to place key weapons around the world. "There were 38 weapons systems in two dozen countries," he says. "It's quite staggering."

For Canada, though, the Pentagon documents add little new to what researchers had already pieced together about the country's 35-year history with nuclear weapons. The firm were the Mark IV air-dropped atomic bombs deployed for use by Strategic Air Command bombers at Goose Bay, starting in 1950. In 1964, the most famous nuclear weapons were stationed in Canada after a lightning public debate during the 1963 federal election campaign. John Diefenbaker's Conservative government accepted Britain's surface-to-air missiles

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"We've created this image that Canada is more moral, and nukes don't fit into that"

from the United States, but then hesitated about equipping them with nuclear warheads. The Liberals under Lester Pearson anticipated that they would acquire the warheads, and won the election.

Soon after, in 1965, the Canadian air force installed Genie air-launched missiles on its CF-101 Voodoo fighters based in British Columbia and Quebec, and Falcon air-to-air missiles on other aircraft. In 1968, it deployed anti-submarine nuclear depth bombs for two years in Argentina Bay, Nfld. At the height of Canada's involvement with atomic weapons in the late 1960s, according to Ottawa researcher John

Clearwater, between 250 and 450 warheads were available to Canadian forces.

Clearwater, author of a study published last year entitled *Canadian Nuclear Weapons: The Unsold Story of Canada's Cold War Arsenal*, notes that Ottawa said as little as possible about its nuclear weaponry—partly because of fear that it would be criticized for being part of the Pentagon war machine. "In the mid-1960s our military put more money and resources into nuclear programs than into anything else," says Clearwater, "but you couldn't talk about it." Only the Prime Minister, the defence minister and a few senior military planners, he adds, knew how extensive Canada's program was. "Virtually all of the cabinet was in the dark."

Canada's involvement also attracted little public attention because most Canadians simply didn't want to know. "In the Trudeau era, we generated this myth that Canada was quasi-neutral, a nation of peacekeepers," says Sean Maloney, who teaches national security at The Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont. "We've created this im-

age that Canada is more moral than the Americans, and nukes don't fit into that." Maloney says his research shows that Ottawa was prepared to develop its own weapons if Washington did not give it access to nuclear arms. In 1955, he says, the government of Louis Saint-Laurent commissioned a study on whether Canada could build its own bombs. "The answer was, 'Sure we could,' but we never had to make our own," says Maloney. "It was cheaper to get them from the Americans."

Canada's nuclear involvement ended in 1984, when its Genie missiles were out of service along with the obsolete CF-101 fighters. Even more remarkable, says the authors of last week's study, is the virtual elimination of U.S. nuclear weapons outside the United States with almost no fanfare. Since 1992, after the end of the Cold War, the Pentagon has withdrawn or destroyed almost all the nukes it had abroad. Now, the authors conclude, it has only about 150 weapons in seven foreign countries—a tiny fraction of its arsenal that once covered the globe. ■



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## Dole drops out

Former cabinet secretary Elizabeth Dole, 63, ended her bid to become the first woman president of the United States, saying she lacked the money to compete against her cash-rich rivals, especially Texas Gov. George W. Bush and the \$84 million he has raised. The departure of Dole, wife of 1996 Republican presidential contender Bob Dole, left *Associated Press* John McCain and magazine publisher Steve Forbes as Bush's main opponents.

## Papon briefly flees France

Convicted Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon, 83, fled to Switzerland past as he was due to go to jail in France, but Switzerland quickly sent him back after he was arrested in a Gstaad hotel. A French court sentenced the former Vichy official to 10 years in jail in 1998 for helping deport Jews to Nazi camps, but he remained free during an unsuccessful appeal.

## Netanyahu's home raided

Former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, were pulled for nine hours by investigators who suspect the couple of illegally keeping guns while he was in office. Police also raided the couple's home and office in what allies of the controversial baronet claimed was part of a plan to embarrass Netanyahu.

## Closing a mammoth

A 20,000-year-old woolly mammoth perished in ice has been excavated in Siberia and will be transported to a core where it will be kept frozen and studied. Scientists believe it may be possible to extract DNA and clone a new member of the extinct species.

## Pakistan stands defiant

Pakistan's military regime rejected international criticism of its troops but promised to install a new government that could have a civilian component. Foreign ministers from the 54 countries of the Commonwealth, including Canada, suspended Pakistan from the organization. Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy planned to lead a mission to Islamabad to press for a return to democracy.

## World Notes

### Indonesia's dream team

A week of violence ended in celebration when Indonesia's presidential loss, Megawati Sukarnoputri, claimed the vice-presidency in a consolation prize. Rioto had swept the country after Muslim leader Abdurrahman Wahid, 58, was elected president in a vote in the supreme People's Consultative Assembly. Although Megawati's party won the most votes in the last parliamentary election, she did not have a majority. The fall of Wahid, a half-blind Muslim cleric widely known by the nickname Gus Dur, was the top job after his other two opponents—military commander Gen. Wiranto and Abdurrahman Tjandjeng, head of the former ruling party—lost him. The fighting that followed was particularly violent on the tourist island of Bali, where the partly-Balinese Megawati, daughter of the country's founding president Sukarno, enjoys strong support. Thousands also took to the streets in Jakarta.



Megawati and Wahid now depressing

Fearing even greater violence, Wiranto and Tjandjeng quit the race for vice-presidency—effectively handing Megawati the title. Both Wiranto and Tjandjeng are tainted by links to ousted dictator Suharto and his successor, B. J. Habibie, who was hospitalized into dropping his bid for re-election after losing a confidence vote in the assembly. Wahid and Megawati pledged to work together to restore national unity in the fractious country. Her huge popularity is expected to lend the new government much-needed credibility.

### Treasure hunters find sunken gold

Sunken ships carrying gold looted by Spanish conquistadors have sustained unwatched for five centuries along Cuba's coast walls. But Canadian treasure hunters believe they have found the first evidence of treasure hoards of gold once carried by Spanish galleons. A company headed by Doug Lewis, a former Conservative cabinet member, has found such signs in a gold-choked and a holy cross relic. "This is just the finding King Rich wants," boasted a spokesman for Vito Gold Exploration Inc., which is set to start on profits 50-50 with Havana.

### Deadly rockets

Russian troops excluded the Chechen capital of Grozny as the city incurred victims of a devastating rocket attack. At least 143 died and 400 were injured when 10 missiles slammed into an open-air market and nearby clinic. Corpses lay piled in heaps at the wounded, including new mothers, pleaded for help. Russian troops swept into Chechnya in the end

of September to dismantle Islamic militants. Moscow blames for a series of deadly apartment explosions in Russia. In a series of bizarre accusations, Russian officials initially denied responsibility for the rocket attack, then admitted that their forces had fired at what they believed was an illegal arms market (see and no civilians were hit), then accused their donors, blaming local gangs. Russian units, meanwhile, took up positions around Grozny.





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## People

### From nun to parenting guru

When child-rearing expert Barbara Colorado wrote her second book, *Parenting with Wit and Wisdom at Times of Crisis and Loss*, little did she know that she would have to add a two-paragraph epilogue to address the high school shooting tragedy last April in Littleton, Colo., where Colorado lives. "I was horrified," she says, adding that one of her neighbours' sons was killed. "But it is more than just Littleton, which is why I also included the Taber, Alta., shooting in the book." This isn't the first time Colorado has confronted parents in peril. As one of North America's most acclaimed parenting experts, Colorado, 52, has lectured and taught parents for 20



*Colorado's record for a parenting book*

years. And her first book, *Kids Are Worth It!*, published in 1994, sold 275,000 copies in Canada, a record for a parenting guide. Education won't Colorado's first career choice—religion was. At age 19, she joined a Franciscan convent, where she stayed for three years, including one spent in silence. "I'm glad that I went, as it has had a tremendous influence on my life. I recommend a year of silence to everyone," she says, laughing. "But I'm also glad I left." So are Canadian parents.



*Hochschild's two award-winning books deal with slavery and human rights*

## Crusading writer

Journalist Adam Hochschild's latest book is a critical hit

Respected author Adam Hochschild has won numerous literary awards—but winning the Canadian-based \$50,000 Lionel Gelber Prize for best book on international relations in September was especially thrilling. "This is a prestigious international award," says Hochschild, who won for his book, *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*, which recounts the quiet genocide that occurred in the Congo under Belgian rule between the 1880s and 1909. "Another factor in this book is in part about the country's first international human rights movement, and in terms of human rights, Canada is far ahead of the U.S. and other countries."

Hochschild, a 57-year-old San Francisco-based journalist, has always been involved with social issues. One summer while at university, Hochschild wrote for an anti-apartheid newspaper in South Africa. And after moving to San Francisco in the late 1960s, he co-founded the left-leaning magazine *Mother Jones* in 1976.

The idea for *King Leopold's Ghost* came to Hochschild on a flight home, when he made a fanned reference to Mark Twain's participation in the movement against slavery in the Congo in the late 1880s. "It mentioned that five to eight million people were killed, and I was shocked that I had never heard of it, or of the men who started the movement against it," says Hochschild, whose wife, Julie, is a sociologist. "When I started researching, I realized that I couldn't have made up any better villains or heroes—it was perfect."

There is finally a fight among equals as Air Canada parries Onex's bid



On the ground in Montreal, a flurry of conversations over marketing and supplier deals

# The Counterattack

By Kimberley Noble

It was 1995, and then-Air Canada boss Hollis Hertz had it all figured out. Now that Canada and the United States had signed the "open skies" deal to free up North American air travel, he could deliver on the airline's perennial promise to investors: he would blow rival Canadian Airlines out of the skies. All he needed was \$500 million in ammunition—and stockbroker Neil Harris Inc., the Bank of Montreal's brokerage arm, stood ready to load the guns. Neilson offered a quick deal in which it would buy a huge block of Air Canada stock, and reell it to investors.

Air Canada shareholders loved the idea. Such a huge share issue would slash the market price of the stock they already owned. Harris didn't care. Like every Air Canada CEO before and since, he was convinced that all his job would be forgiven after he showed he could buy Canadian for pure. The suit in Bay Street legend: the shares were hard to sell. Canadian Airlines International Ltd. stayed aloft, while Air Canada's stock price crashed. It only bounced back after Toronto-based boutique specialist Onex Corp. tilted in \$1.8-billion bid to buy and merge the two airlines in August.

This week, Air Canada and Neilson finally got their chance to defend themselves. They came up with a sophisticated but clever counterattack to the Onex bid that could easily disorient shareholders without concerning 1388 legislators limiting each Air Canada investor to 10 per cent of the company's voting stock. (Air Canada is asking Quebec's Superior Court of Justice to declare in a court case that terms this week that the Onex deal is illegal because it would violate the law)

Air Canada's latest CEO, Harris protégé Robert Milne, calls his company's \$950-million package of shares, warrants and employee loans—accompanied by a buyback of 35 per cent of the company's shares and the purchase of Canadian for \$92 million—"bold, sensible and innovative." The stock market is not so sure. Air Canada's share price has barely budged since the announcement. If one thing emerged from last week's events, however, it is the sense that this is finally a fight among equals.

This is where Air Canada's marketing partners—UAL Corp., the U.S. parent of United Airlines, and Germany's Deutsche Lufthansa AG—enter the fray. They are putting their own money on the line to beat back Onex's financial bidder, American Airlines' parent, AMR Corp. of Fort Worth, Tex. Air Canada, the air war has evolved into what so many industry experts have called it all along: a serious showdown of international giants that pit UAL's mighty Star Alliance against AMR's Oneworld coalition.

What makes Air Canada's idea clever is the way it is structured. It is set up, in the words of one of its attorneys, as the airline can now "be bought by anybody who chooses to buy it." But there is a big hitch: no buyer can any longer deliver Air Canada to AMR's Oneworld. That potential alliance was a big reason the giant U.S. airline has been willing to put up 62.5 per cent of the money for the Onex deal, in exchange for only 14.9 per cent of the equity. Without Air Canada, no maiden voyage of the Onex-AMR arrangement is possible. "They say they are the only ones who can deliver," an Air Canada strategist says through clenched teeth. "Well, so say. Screw them."

Have they fooled the Onex deal? It's possible. The buy-in of Air Canada's proposal is a series of 10-year commercial

agreements with its Star Alliance partners, which management says do not require shareholder approval and could prove prohibitively expensive to break or fight. (Air Canada will not disclose any of the terms on which it can back out.)

Onex officials expected to spend at least a week exploring their options. As time is how much more money they can put on the table, as well as ways in which they might secure a legal challenge to the flurry of new marketing and supplier deals. "There are enough poison pills to fill a dispensary here," complains Onex spokesman Nigel Wright. "We are considering whether Air Canada has done something to interfere with the shareholder's ability to consider the better offer."

What is Air Canada worth to the Star Alliance? It's a complex, multilayered deal. UAL and Lufthansa are kicking in \$730 million, although \$310 million of that is a line of credit from a German bank that the two foreign airlines have guaranteed, but that Air Canada, should it borrow that money, is expected to repay. UAL and Lufthansa are paying \$250 million to buy preferred shares, convertible into seven per cent of Air Canada, in non-voting stock.

On top of that, UAL is buying three new Airbus A-350 planes from Air Canada for \$190 million, which the Montreal carrier will then lease back over 25 years. For now, this deal cheap money. Air Canada pays no interest or dividends to the foreign airlines unless it starts paying dividends to the rest of its shareholders (something it has never done).

The remaining \$200 million comes from a source closer to home. To protect one of its most valuable franchises, the CIBC/Air Canada Visa card, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is paying Air Canada in exchange for extending the current agreement and for warrants that can be used to buy three per cent of Air Canada's non-voting stock.

They prefer not to be quoted as saying this, but Air Canada

officials acknowledge that they have Onex chairman Gerry Schwartz to thank. Putting a price tag on the value of the alliance partnership "is something we have been trying to accomplish for a long time," one says. Air Canada would never have been able to persuade the foreigners to pony up the cash without the threat that it would leave the Star Alliance.

Air Canada plans to use the proceeds, plus some of its own cash, to make a \$2-a-share bid for Canadian—which depends on the capitalization of AMR, Canada's largest shareholder—and set up a stand-alone, low-cost airline. A "transatlantic" Canadian would continue to exist as a Calgary-based domestic carrier—also, Air Canada says, with 2,500 fewer jobs. (Under Air Canada's plan, none of its own employees will face job losses. Onex, on the other hand, plans to cut 5,000 jobs in the merged airline.) Finally, instead of feeding AMR's U.S. system, Canadian would be merged with Delta Air Lines Inc. of Atlanta, which is not part of either Star or Oneworld. By Friday, however, Air Canada indicated it would be willing to allow Canadian to stay within the Oneworld system.

To get these long-suffering shareholders onside, Air Canada is willing to pay \$800 million, or \$12 a share, for 35 per cent of their stock. Unlike the Onex deal, this offer does not require shareholder approval. Share buybacks, commonly used as a way to increase a company's stock price, are made at the discretion of the board of directors. Will this money be enough to make their vote on issue, against the Onex offer on Nov. 10? Or, as most observers believe, will Onex overturn the deal this week to shareholders will back their plan? That question will be addressed by shareholders when they decide to vote, says Ian Joseph of Alameda Management Ltd. Regardless of who has the authority in this air war, in other words, Air Canada's owners will ultimately call their own shots. ■



Milne: Bold and innovative

# Law firms take a cross-border trip to the altar

By Anthony Wilson-Smith

**Never mind** the Connecticut roots, the plush office at one of New York City's best addresses on Park Avenue, or the blue-chip credentials that start with a degree from Harvard Law School. Despite Tony Haythe's place as a charter member of the U.S. legal establishment, he now figures he has all it takes to make himself—at home—in Canada. For one, there is the fluent French he has acquired over the years, courtesy of careful study and a wife from France. For another, Haythe has been a frequent visitor to Canada in recent years on business for clients. Most important, as of Oct. 4, he became providing partner of the now law firm of Tony Haythe, the product of the first such substantial cross-border merger in North American history. "Already, I find I'm starting to say 'it' all that much more," the elegant 60-year-old says with a smile.

Beyond the inevitable jokes about grammatical and cultural differences, the move is serious business. It pushes one of Canada's leading law firms—the former Tony Haythe, DeLoach & Binnington—onto the international stage, with the obvious risk that the focus of its activities may shift to New York. Tony Haythe's 225 lawyers at the time of the merger included former Ontario premier William Davis and former Ontario Court of Appeal chief justice Charles Doherty, while its clients include Rogers Communications Inc. (owner of *Madabout*), Thomson Corp.,

CanWest Global Communications Corp., Edger Bros. Corp., and Macmillan Financial.

Until recently, the legal profession was one of the few business areas to resist the rush of global mergers. Some firms are already international, such as the huge Chicago-based Baker McKenzie. In his offices around the world—but in operations are structured so that individual offices function on their own. And some Canadian firms, such as Goodman Phillips & Vinberg, have lawyers who can practice U.S. law.

As companies around the world pair off, lawyers—the people who implement mergers—are themselves rushing to catch up. Besides this merger, three major firms—Clifford Chance of London, Rogers & Wells of New York, and Pendergast Volpert Weber & Austin of Toronto—merged in September in merger of Jan. 1. "Anyone who thinks these are isolated incidents is stuck in the past," says Christopher Bart, a professor who specializes in corporate strategy at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Business at Hamilton's McMaster University. "Law is joining accounting and every other sector of the economy in globalizing."

The merger of Tony Haythe with Haythe & Curley, which has 75 lawyers, is "being done primarily because it is so perfectly fit the interests of our clients," says Toronto-based managing partner Les Viner. But, he also adds, "We had probably reached the stage where we could not grow further in Canada, so growth had to come elsewhere." By

contrast, Haythe says that his firm, which he helped found in 1982, "had stayed small as a matter of choice. But when we looked around, we realized there were only a handful of other boutique firms remaining in New York. So we thought marriage was a good idea—on the condition we find the ideal partner."

In fact, both sides bring distinctive strengths to the mix. Many of the former Tony Haythe clients already do regular business on the Wall Street capital markets. As well, New York state business law governing mergers and acquisitions is increasingly regarded as the world standard—so that even deals in other countries that do not involve U.S. companies are structured by New York legal rules. That made increased access to New York important for Tony Haythe. On the other hand, the smaller Haythe & Curley sharply increases its resources, and its expertise in handling private and public equity transactions and mergers and acquisitions melds well with the strengths of the Toronto firm. It has a Beijing office and significant presence in Asia, which, Viner says, "coupled with Tony's Latin American business, carries us around the globe very nicely."

There are several compelling reasons for that, for law firms in general and Tony Haythe in particular. As businesses increasingly expand beyond their country's borders, they want their law firms to serve them wherever they go. But at present, most domestic law firms with offices abroad still treat them with Canadian lawyers who do not practice local law

## The legal community joins other sectors of the economy in the rush to go global



Where Haythe left, growth had to come elsewhere.

instead, they advise companies on Canadian law. When Canadian clients need legal services in another country, they are referred to a local firm. Similarly, American firms that keep offices in Canada usually do not practice Canadian law. By contrast, Tony Haythe's mix of New York and Toronto-based lawyers means it now offers full service on both sides of the border.

There are a variety of reasons why international law mergers have not been commonplace. For one, different countries—as well as states and provinces—practice different forms of law, and lawyers need to be licensed in each jurisdiction. As well, law firms face more unique and specific tax and legal hurdles. Also, the Law Society of Upper Canada has strict rules requiring all named partners of law firms to be licensed in the province—which Haythe is not. The two companies will continue to be regulated separately in New York and Ontario. Thus, there is the sharp difference in the value of the two countries' currencies, which means that a top-billing lawyer in Toronto

may take in far less than a low-high-profile counterpart in New York. And Tony Haythe has clients who invest in Cuba—a move that is forbidden under U.S. law. As a result, that segment of business will be kept separate from the new partnership.

But both sides agree that the most important consideration in their 10-month-long merger talks was the seemingly innocuous word "culture." That refers to everything from the collective mind-set of the two firms, to the manner in which earnings are distributed among partners and the way in which to structure the new company so that neither side felt it was being subsumed. "Normally, there were concerns about the control implications," says Viner, as a reference to the perils of joining with a firm in the heart of the world's busiest business scene. Similarly, Haythe says he faced similar concerns from his partners about joining with a firm that has three times as many lawyers.

Some of those concerns were soothed by the establishment of a seven-member

but executive committee made up of three partners from each city, with Viner as the overseas. Haythe defends his own role as being "similar to that of a chairman," but says the distinctions between his role and that of Viner were deliberately left vague. Over time, he said, an unspoken number of Canadian, Toronto-based lawyers are expected to move to New York, and to join the New York bar so they can practice there.

For now, both key partners in the new firm are cautious about stating whether they are on top of a new trend. "The marketplace is changing, but individual firms will find individual ways of reacting to that," says Viner. And Haythe, for his part, says that other firms studying the idea may find they like the concept more than the reality. "It's a lot like a marriage," he says. "Everybody you talk to is in favour of the idea, but it doesn't work out unless you've found the right partner." And if the marriage doesn't work out, neither side should have to look far to find a good lawyer. ■



## 'Whispers' on the wind

### Passport Wins buy number?

Increasingly, when it comes to corporate earnings estimates and even economic data, analysts are acting and reacting to unofficial, so-called whisper numbers. These numbers are supposed to represent the inside scoop, the brain of the corporation, that drives trading edge. But the proliferation of whisper data, and its inclusion in decision in the business media and on the Internet, is adding another layer of uncertainty to an already jittery capital market.

Back in the main of time, public corporate earnings estimates used to be relatively rare. Then, as the retail base of the equity market grew, investment analysts began to pass their working estimates on to large institutional clients and preferred wealthy individuals. As these estimates became common knowledge, and corporate management began to openly deal with the expectations they generated, some firms began to publicize the numbers and deliver cautious figures to the street. Of those, the best known in North America are First Call and IRIS International; they are the most responsible for the now ubiquitous observation that a company's results either met, exceeded or fell short of analysts' expectations.

Brokerage firms have long faced extreme pressure to add value, to attract and justify the fees that they charge for executing trades. That pressure has become even more acute as online trading starts to erode their commission streams. And so, they began the practice of introducing whisper numbers, to replace the consensus and the once-exclusive earnings estimates. That means a research analyst will quietly let favoured clients know that a formal estimate is actually a little on the high or low side. "For the most part, my role is to ignore whistles and all the other background noise," says Duncan Stewart of Terra Capital of Toronto, which manages the Navigator Canadian Technology Fund. "You know the published numbers are wrong a lot of the time, but it's hard to filter them out completely. They creep into your subconscious expectations."

Another reason that whisper numbers are gaining harder to ignore is that they are becoming so pervasive. The Internet now has a plethora of Web sites devoted exclusively to collecting whisper numbers (such as EarningsWhisper.com, StreetQueen and WhispersNorth.com) and disseminating them. Although often inaccurate, they've become hugely popular.

High-technology and other growth stocks are especially vulnerable to such speculation because they are specifically valued on multiples of their earnings. By comparison, the

price of basic shares is influenced by their dividend yield, and growth equities tend to be valued on their cash flow, and on rising stocks on their reserve base. And

because the pace of new developments and competition is so rapid in the high-tech sector, revision pay particular attention to unanticipated quarterly earnings.

Share prices used to rise or fall based on how a company performed in relation to formal estimates. Now, the whisper number takes its toll. On Oct. 12, Intel's stock fell by \$5 each on the after-hours trading, when it missed earnings of 55 cents a share for that quarter. The prevailing consensus was that the chip-maker would earn 57 cents a share, but the whisper number was 60 cents. So even though Intel reported a solid quarter, the whisper number created the perception it had fallen short.

One of the arguments against the unfettered proliferation of such data—especially on the Internet—is that it is not always clear what angle is being worked. For example, shareholders may attempt to build up unrealistic investor expectations. Then, when the actual earnings number is released, their disappointment drives the share price down, allowing the shorts to cover their positions at a lower cost and make a profit.

Another negative is that whisper numbers further institutionalize inequalities in the capital markets playing field. There is no one not tacitly acknowledges that some clients are entitled to better-quality, more accurate information than others—and you can be sure it's never going to be the average retail investor singled out for special insight. It's similar to the period before a new stock issue comes to market, when institutional clients are privy to events like advance "road shows" where management answers all the hard questions.

But most disturbing of all, the whisper numbers reinforce the already dangerous short-term perspective of investors of all sizes. Of course, maximizing shareholder value is a laudable goal, but the whip of quarterly performance is increasingly dictating management's judgment.

In recent weeks, securities regulators have begun to crack down publicly on suspected inside trades, and the Toronto Stock Exchange has launched a review of conflicts that investment analysts may face when they write research reports about shares in companies their brokerage firms have underwritten. These initiatives are welcome—and long overdue. But if they want to take a pre-emptive strike at emerging multiple speculators, regulators would do well to take a closer look at whisper numbers, before investors have to chase their tails help.

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## A GM deal

**Canadian Auto Workers** president Buzz Hargrove said he was "ecstatic" after his union reached a lucrative new agreement with General Motors of Canada Ltd. The deal closely mirrors agreement the CAW recently reached with Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd. and DaimlerChrysler Canada Inc. GM's 22,500 Canadian employees will receive a three-per-cent increase and an estimated 1.5-per-cent cost of living allowance each year for three years, a \$1,000 signing bonus, greatly improved pensions and early retirement packages. The base hourly wage for a production line worker is now \$23.

There were compromises on both sides. GM agreed to abandon its plan to outsource about 700 jobs to independent suppliers. However, GM is



GM concept car can sit atop a Quebec plant

planning to proceed with a restructuring plan that will likely lead to the loss of 3,000 jobs. The union also failed to win guarantees that the company will not close its assembly plant in St.-Hyacinthe, Que., in 2002 as planned. Instead, the union is lobbying GM to make at least one of the new vehicle models, an concept car, to unveiled last week at the plant, which employs about 1,300.

## Martha and Steve go toe-to-toe

**It's one thing** to turn an obsession into a thriving business. It's quite another to make it on *Bill* Street. But how cleverly does Martha Stewart, 56, and her winning phony son, Steve, 36, did just that, launching wildly successful initial public offerings. Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. shares soared to \$52 [U.S.] each from \$18, before closing the week at \$35.06. Meanwhile, *Avatar* now has newly rated shares of World Wrestling Entertainment Inc., which produces cable TV shows, rise from \$17 to close the week at \$24.

## Financial outlook

**Sales at the wholesale level** are continuing to post significant increases. Including a 1.4-per-cent rise in August, purchases surged 10.6 per cent since



the same month a year ago. The strongest sales were in the computer and auto sectors. In the computer group, which includes software, wholesale purchases rose up 23.3 per cent over the previous year. Driven by consumer demand, the wholesale vehicle trade surged 20.8 per cent. Still, other sectors are struggling. While wholesale clothing purchases rebounded, they are still down from the year before because of poor summer wholesale demand. And, in the agricultural sector, equipment sales are down more than 16 per cent for the year.

## IBM's Y2K blues

Investors fled in droves from the shares of IBM Corp. after the computer giant said that customer uneasiness around the turn of the millennium will likely result in slower sales. That could depress its earnings over the next two quarters, the company warned. IBM shares tumbled by \$21.75 (U.S.) on the day of the announcement, wiping the Canadian equivalent of \$58.1 billion from its market value.

## Sears still soaring

While Canadian retailing legend T Eaton Co. Ltd. went up in final liquidation sales, Sears Canada Inc.—55-per-cent owned by Sears Roebuck and Co. of Chicago—announced yet another solidly profitable quarter. In the three months ending Oct. 2, sales reached \$1.5 billion, up 12.8 per cent over the same period last year.

## Troubled waters

The emotional issue of exporting water bubbled to the surface again when Sun Belt Water Inc. of Santa Barbara, Calif., launched a lawsuit demanding up to \$15.8 billion in compensation from the federal and B.C. governments over a cancelled deal. The province granted the company a license in 1990 to export water by superpipelines, but then banned all bulk exports in 1995. Sun Belt says its rights under NAFTA have been violated.

## A last hurrah

On the brink of completing one of the largest mergers ever undertaken by Canada's financial institutions, Canada Trust's parent posted sharp increases in its quarterly earnings. Profits were up by 24 per cent at C.T. Financial Services Inc., which announced in August that it had entered into an \$8-billion merger deal with the Toronto Dominion Bank.

## Rogers rebounding

Rogers Communications Inc. posted a sharp increase in third-quarter profits. Earnings for the period ending Sept. 30 were \$777.2 million, up from a loss of \$42.4 million a year ago. Long-term debt that stood at \$5.5 billion at the end of 1998 was reduced by \$1.9 billion.

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Ross Laver

## Why inflation won't take off

There's an old saying on Wall Street that the stock market climbs a wall of worry. But while there's plenty of worry among investors this fall,

share prices aren't exactly scaling new heights. Far from it.

The reason is inflation—or, more accurately, fear of inflation. The latest statistics both in Canada and in the United States have convinced many people that inflation is resurging from a seven-year slumber. And because inflation is bad for corporate earnings, money has been flowing out of stocks and into less volatile investments such as bonds. The Dow Jones industrial average closed last week down 7.6 per cent from its August peak. The Toronto Stock Exchange 300 index hasn't been here as badly, but it's still off 3.5 per cent from its recent high.

How bad is the inflation outlook? In the United States in September, wholesale prices registered their biggest gain in nine years, up 1.1 per cent from August. Oil prices have doubled in the past year—well above news for the energy sector, but not for consumers and other industries. And Canada's consumer price index jumped last month to an annual rate of 2.6 per cent, close to the top end of the Bank of Canada's target band of between one and three per cent. That's the biggest annual rise since June, 1995, and a long way from the 0.6-per-cent rate that Canada enjoyed as recently as January.

Most economists think it's now only a matter of time before Bank of Canada governor Gordon Thomson raises interest rates, if only to prevent the dollar from downward pressure in international currency markets. And a rate increase is almost certain to be announced at the next meeting of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board's open-market committee, on Nov. 16. Fed chairman Alan Greenspan has repeatedly warned that inflation, if unchecked in its early stages, could derail what has proved to be a remarkable run of prosperity.

Greenspan may be right; his trick record on these matters is certainly better than any other central banker in history. But there are sound reasons for believing that inflation is not a serious threat, and that any further rate increases are likely to be modest and short-lived.

First, the current inflation picture is nowhere near as alarming as some suggest. Yes, U.S. wholesale prices rose sharply last month, but those numbers bounce around a lot and do not reflect increases in retail markups. (Now do they rise ac-

cording to prices for services or imports.) That's important, because in spite of the high levels of consumer spending, some North American retailers

still face strong resistance whenever they try to pass along price increases. Good times may be here, but the recession mentality lives on in a willingness to hunt for bargains.

To see that in action, take a closer look at the inflation numbers. The so-called core rates of inflation, which exclude food and energy and is considered to be a more accurate barometer of underlying price pressures, is running at two per cent in the United States, down slightly from last year. It would be even lower had it not been for a recent hike in oil-

related prices, brought about by a multi-billion-dollar legal settlement against the oilfields industry. For the most part, inflation elsewhere is weak or non-existent. In two of the fastest growing industries, computers and communications, prices are merely falling.

The recent jump in Canadian inflation was also driven initially by monetary factors. Excluding food and energy, consumer prices are 1.8 per cent higher than a year ago. A large part of the increase was due to last year's drop in the exchange rate, which pushed up import prices. But according to Bank of Montreal economist Wojciech Szachnanski, Canada is likely at or near the peak of the upward impact on prices from currency weakness. "This suggests that core inflation should start moderating in the coming period, returning to the lower half of the Bank of Canada's target band," he says.

All that means doesn't vary kind of evidence that rising prices are a serious problem. As for the future, there's a growing belief among economists that technology and electronic commerce in particular will set to keep prices lower than would otherwise be the case. Although only a tiny portion of retail purchases now take place over the Internet, there's no question that the Web offers huge efficiencies for sellers of everything from cars to cookies. By one estimate, the cost of sales and distribution over the Internet is only about a third the cost of sales in a bricks-and-mortar environment. As growing numbers of consumers go online to shop or to compare prices for major purchases, profit margins are sure to come under increasing attack. By helping to keep inflation in check, e-commerce could be the fuel that keeps this expansion humming.



Greenspan ready to raise rates



*Mustard: 'to ignore this is pretty stupid'*

the process that leads to hardening of the arteries.

An dean and later vice-president of health sciences at McMaster University in Hamilton and its precursor of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, which he founded in 1982 and led for 14 years, Mustard became increasingly preoccupied with the social and economic forces that determine human health. He was fascinated by a British study of civil servants in the late 1960s that showed that those lowest in the hierarchy were six times more likely to die of strokes, heart attacks, cancer, accidents and suicide. "The puzzle to me," says Mustard, "was what was causing this?"

Clues emerged from discoveries in the neurosciences pointing to the critical importance that stimulation—in games, play and interactions with adults and other children—has for brain development in the early years of life. Without the right stimulation, nerve brain pathways may not develop. And a growing body of evidence suggests that can have a dire effect not only on intellectual ability but on human health. The reason: impaired neural development may affect an individual's response to life's challenges by keeping stress hormones such as cortisol—which can suppress the immune system—at high levels. "It's increasingly evident," says Mustard, "that brain development can determine the role of health problems in later life—and to ignore this is pretty stupid."

Governments are beginning to pay attention. According to Liberal MP John Godfrey, the federal government's new commitment to combat racism and parental leave benefits in a year from six months "was a direct reflection of what Fraser has been saying." In anti-tobaccoism, Mustard remains a persistent voice for a cause he views as critically important not only for children, but for Canada's success as a nation in the 21st century.

Mark Nicholls

## Building brains

Can young children be programmed for health?

The air in the hallways of an elegant Toronto hotel was thick with sophistication—"a tremendous resource," a mix of thoughtful passion, compassion and generosity. "An intellectual giant." The imposing, white-haired figure at the center of it all was Dr. Fraser Mustard, the occasion his retirement last week as chairman of the Toronto-based Institute for Work & Health. Mustard's leadership of the organization, which insulates and promotes workplace safety, is just one facet in a life that has encompassed a succession of careers—physician, scientist, thinker, educator. And when Mustard rose to thank his hosts, he related an incident that reflected one of his current preoccupations—children. It happened in September during a visit to a mountain village in northern Pakistan. "We had to introduce ourselves to the village leaders," recalled Mustard, 72. "And one of the things they wanted to know was how many children we each had. I was pleased to say that I have six children, and nine grandchildren—which gave me considerable status in the eyes of the villagers."

A man of huge energy, Mustard of late has been reducing his habitually heavy workload—in May, he stepped up as chairman of Robert Power Systems, the pioneering Brampton, B.C.-based company that builds hydrogen power cells. He still spends approximately a month each year taking part in meetings of the board of the Aga Khan University in Pakistan. And he is in demand across Canada and internationally to speak on a subject that has become something of a Mustard crusade—early childhood development. Society, he contends, must devote more resources to nurturing children in the first 10 years of life. "The early years," he says, "determine our later coping skills—if you don't get that in childhood, it's very hard to make up for it later."

Of his own childhood in Toronto, Mustard recalls that although the family had financial problems in the Depression years, "I was well supported by adults and an extended family of relatives in and around Chicago." After earning a University of Toronto medical degree, Mustard scored a research breakthrough in the 1960s by shedding new light on

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# The best of both worlds

By Patricia Chisholm

Sometimes Patricia Wilkinson wonders why they didn't do it sooner. Last spring, after five years of daily five-hour commutes between their home in Gibsons, on British Columbia's sleepy Sunshine Coast, and their jobs in downtown Vancouver, Wilkinsons, 40, and her husband, Walter Low, 42, decided they needed a change. They traded their 225-square-metre house with hot tub, pool and huge garden for a relatively modest 765-square-metre loft-style condominium atop a five-storey walk from Wilkinson's job as a marketing consultant in the heart of the city's downtown. And even though it may seem contradictory, the couple say the move reduced their stress levels and improved their quality of life. In fact, by downsizing and losing close to work, they now have far more time and money to pursue other interests. "It's not for everyone," Wilkinson says, "but for us it's a great way to live."

Like Wilkinson, whose 18-year-old son recently moved to Hamilton to attend school, a growing number of Canadians without children at home are passing up the green, open spaces of suburban and rural communities in favour of the bustling cores of Canada's largest cities. While suburban growth remains strong, the final years of the decade are seeing a mini-boom in buyers looking for high-quality downtown housing. Many of the new downtowners are baby boomers with grown children; others are children Gen-X'ers who prefer compact living and busier neighbourhoods. But families are getting in on the act, too. As a result, according to a recent Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. study authored by Ottawa housing analyst Alain Migonies, downtown residential building starts are on the rise in Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax, as more people choose convenience and cultural diversity over the larger houses and slower pace of suburban



Wilkinson near her home in Vancouver tries to balance time and energy to pursue other interests

For convenience and culture, more Canadians are choosing to live downtown

Many city planners applaud the trend. Tightly packed neighbourhoods make more efficient use of expensive infrastructure like roads and schools, and slow the environmental ravages of suburban sprawl. Planners also point out that healthy downtown neighbourhoods keep city centres from turning into sterile commercial zones, as has happened in so many U.S. cities. There are

problems, of course, in places such as Toronto, some experts say that midtown-like clusters of condominiums and townhouses are sometimes built at the expense of parks and other public amenities. But those are quibbles compared with the advantages, they say. "Canada fits into a strong North American movement towards renewal in downtown areas," notes David Bauer, executive director of Vancouver's Urban Futures Institute. "It's being driven by many factors coming together, and it's likely to continue for at least another decade."

The trend has been a lifeline for some Canadian cities with fading but charming and historic downtown areas. Valerie Fells, real estate broker and manager of Royal LePage's office in Halifax, Dartmouth and Bedford, N.S., says bachelor and one-bedroom condominium units in one renovated building at Halifax's water end, adjacent to the harbour, now go for about \$100,000, up from about \$70,000 a few years ago. "As soon as they're listed, they're sold," she says. "That's a big change from a few years ago."

One downtown condominium buyer, Debi Colquhoun, 34, a restaurant supervisor, says she wanted to get into the housing market early because rental costs are soaring in the neighbourhoods where she prefers to live. "I was walking everywhere and being close to shops and restaurants," she says. "And I wanted a mature kind of environment—I'm not keen on having a lot of small children around."

That's not to say that kids and the big city don't mix. Longtime downtowners are often loath to head for the suburbs after they become parents and many are finding that giving up a yard and a basketball net over the garage is not that tough. Marciene Bell Mahon, 39, has lived in St-Henri, in southeast Montreal, since 1982. He and his wife, Jennifer Bell, 37, don't own a vehicle and decided to stay in their three-bedroom condominium even after their children, 4, and 6 months, were born because of the huge convenience of walking or biking to the places where they work in the downtown core. And while the move arrived of their second child has them considering a car, they are still rearing the idea. With a row of cafes, shops and an open-air market all within a few minutes' walk, there is hardly any need. "It's urban in lots of ways," Mahon observes, "but it's also like living in a small town."

The trend is also contributing to a rising demand for downtown office space after years of sluggish demand. In general, businesses tend to flee high-core centres in favour of the suburbs, where both rent and taxes are lower. But analysts say some companies are returning to downtown areas in spite of the costs,

partly because that is where their clients want to be, but also because a growing number of skilled employees actually live there. That, says Toronto planner and architect Frank Lewenberg, is another reason to applaud the proliferation of reasonably priced downtown condominiums. "It was really kind of worrying during the last recession when so many jobs shifted to the suburbs," he says. "We're hoping that a strong concentration of young people in the centre will attract more employees back downtown."

There is an ugly side to the trend. Longtime downtown residents complain that too often, the quadrum that attracts people into city cores in the first place—historic architecture, unique shops, lively neighbourhoods—are marred by ill-suited redevelopment. Leslie Lowe, a 37-year-old music magazine editor, has rented an apartment in the south end of Halifax for eight years. She says she can live with the demolition of graceful old buildings and the pace-biker that means she will probably have to move to another neighbourhood when it is time to buy her own home. That is just part of a city's natural evolution, she says. It is the architectural blight of some new buildings that disturbs her. "They tore down a beautiful old row of buildings nearby home and built hideous new condos," she berates. "The people taking it just could."

On top of the historic assault, there can be other problems. While he is a strong proponent of denser cities, Lewenberg points out that more residents mean more pressure on services. That can be a good thing if it leads to more funds for amenities like mass transit, he notes. But it can also mean that in the race to build ever more high-density housing, cities often miss opportunities to develop other amenities, like parks, that greatly improve the quality of life downtown. "After all," Lewenberg says, "they're the lungs of the city."

For those who can find the right patch, though, city living doesn't have to mean sacrificing the outdoor experience. For school administrator and business education teacher Keith Jucka, 60, and his wife, Norma, 58, were living in Civilis, 90 minutes north of Toronto, but bought a spacious condominium in the city's Harbourfront district a dozen years ago to house their three sons while they attended school in Toronto. Two years ago, with their children's education completed, the parents took over the space themselves.

And why not. From their 14th-floor condos, the Juckas can walk or take transit almost anywhere they need to go in the

downtown core, including to their new job at educational consultant And the Toronto location, a footcure destination for walks, are only a short ferry ride away. Best of all, Juckas says, are the views. "We can see south over the water and the islands—it's very relaxing," he says. "On the north side, we have the whole city to look over." Downtown, it seems, can be the best of both worlds. ■

## Downtown looks up

While luxury housing starts increased in a percentage in the metropolitan region





# Sex, love and human remains

Pushing the envelope—with gender-bending, sensual healing and nights of the living dead

By Brian D. Johnson

## Boys Don't Cry

Directed by Kimberly Peirce

It is an archetypal American tragedy, the story of a young rebel with a secret who throws up in a small town and becomes a martyr to resistance. It is also a true story. In 1993, two ex-cons committed a multiple murder in a ramshackle farmhouse near the small Nebraska community of Falls City. One of the victims was known as Brandon Teena, a mild-mannered 20-year-old who was adored by beautiful women left and right. But after his death, people were shocked to discover that Brandon Teena was really Teena Brandon, a young woman masquerading as a man.

Brandon's life has since become the stuff of tabloid legend, and the subject of an acclaimed documentary, *The Brandon Teena Story* (1998). Now, American director Kimberly Peirce has earned it

with an intensely compelling drama. *Boys Don't Cry*, Peirce's feature debut, conveys the story with unadorned realism, yet somehow transcends the grim facts of the case. The story's shocking finale of rape and murder is hard to watch, but the catharsis is well-earned. By then, Brandon has become such a vivid, captivating presence that the character stays with you long after the shock subsides.

Mary Swack, who happens to come from Brandon's home town of Lincoln, Neb., is a revelation in the starring role. With her square jaw and jaggedish mouth, Swack is convincing enough to pass as a man, a boyish man who is both delicate and aggressive—splitting the difference, say, between Matt Damon and James Dean. With her hair cropped short, her breasts bound by a sensor bandage and a look stuffed into her jockey shorts, Brandon heads out on the town to drink with the boys and pick up girls.

Dis-covering the new identity, he battles up to the bar with the naïve swagger of a juvenile trying to look older. He gets hit-on by rednecks, mooned through his first breast and laughs off the dangers of being male. He gamely tries to be one of the white-male boys, drinking and driving, "bunger-doin'" on the back of a pickup, simplifying a ring for his honey. The love he senses in Lana Tiedt, a factory girl played with seductive defiance by Chloe Sevigny (*Kid, The Last Days of Disco*). But Lana has a dangerous friend, an ex-con named John Lotter (Peter Sarsgaard) with sleepy eyes that turn mean with drink—Lotter is now on death row for Brandon's murder.

Brandon undergoes a remarkable metamorphosis. First, he comes out as a man, a seducer who turns out to be the most sensitive guy these Nebraska girls have ever known with Lana. He devotes himself to her pleasure while artfully concealing his lack of equipment. But later, as he gradually surrenders to her, he comes out as a woman, and the final taboo melts away with his clothes and his man. Sevigny, meanwhile, plays the ambiguity of their romance with extra-

Mary-Louise Parker  
Merve Louise Parker  
The Five Senses  
allegiance and love

ordinary subtlety. *Boys Don't Cry*, a tale of crushed gender, is not a frank show of a hard melodrama. It is something one rarely finds in the movies: a revolutionary love story with universal power.

## The Five Senses

Directed by Jeremy Podewas

Now here's an unusual premise. While a single mother receives a message, she connects her three-year-old child to the therapist's sulky teenage daughter, who loses the kid in the park across the street after abandoning her to spy on a couple making out in the bushes. And this is just one of the multiple may lines that make up *The Five Senses*, which won the prize for best Canadian feature at the Toronto Inter-

national Film Festival in September after an acclaimed premiere at Cannes. With his second feature, writer-director Jeremy Podewas affirms the style of his first (*Enigma*), and reaffirms Canadian cinema's leish for episodic narrative.

*The Five Senses* is an elegant fiasco that weaves the lives of five troubled characters in the same apartment building. Each represents one of the senses: Ruth (Gabrielle Rose), the massage therapist, has lost touch with herself, and unburden her guilt over the missing girl with the child's distraught mother (Molly



Songwriter (left), Swedish Romantic  
Scotts III in *Boys Don't Cry* embrace

to the senses. And the performance buffet offers an impressive spread, from Mary-Louise Parker's ditsyish charm to Molly Parker's lucid ambiguity, from Michael's gay cynicism to Lili's delirious angst. Still, the drama seems restrained by the film's synthetic design. And as Podewas circles through themes of alienation and loss, the muted tone and brooding pace suggest *Seven*. *Enigma* like it may be a counterfactual to find anyone's consistency in Canadian cinema. But now that Podewas has more than proven his talent, perhaps he should consider the baroque horizon of his own five senses and the *Enigma*, try adapting someone else's fiction.

## Bringing Out the Dead

Directed by Martin Scorsese

No movie by Martin Scorsese can be lightly dismissed, and this one sure isn't of promise. Based on the 1998 novel by Lawrence Sanders, Joe Connelly, *Bringing Out the Dead* takes place in the heart of Scorsese country, Hell's Kitchen in Manhattan. It is the odyssey of an ambulance driver on the edge of sanity, and it was scripted by Paul Schrader, who wrote *Blue Drive*, which concerned another deranged sexual scrapper scum off the streets of New York. As the opening credits roll, with Vin Diesel waiting, the smoothly 7.8 *Seven*, all the elements appear to be in place for a hallucinogenic trip to Scorsese heaven, or hell, which amounts to the same thing. But the movie is a disappointment.

Nicolas Cage stars as Frank, a proudly pained medic burned out from too many nights on the graveyard shift. In a job that is about saving lives, he is on a losing streak, haunted by sensitive like apathetic of those who have died in his care. Frank works with a recession of gothic patients, played by John Goodman, Ving Rhames and Tom Sizemore. And he reaches out to the beautiful Mary (Patricia Arquette), a former drug addict with a father in a coma.

Racing from crime to crime like *E.T.* on amphetamines, *Bringing Out the Dead* is a nightmarish excursion into blood and spasm. The several details offer some grim fascination, but the surreal includes an jarring, and Scorsese went towards lurid with a subplot involving a black drag lord who holds court in a blood-red den while *Seven* of Babylon plays on the white skull. The Roman Catholic church, always present in Scorsese's work, are more heavy-handed than usual, right down to the priest's cadence in the final frame. But in the end, it is the ragged script that lets the director down (Schrader wrote it in three weeks, perhaps he should have taken time). Like a parade trying to shock a heart back to life, Scorsese pulls out all the stops to save *Bringing Out the Dead*. But this one is beyond salvation. ■

# Gender armistice

A leading feminist argues that men are victims, too

**Stiffed: The Betrayal of the American Man**

By Susan Faludi  
Hesper/Gallery, 680 pages, \$39.95

Susan Faludi likes rage. Her affection extends to a willingness to try to understand and explain their opinions, even when they seem offensive. That is not remarkable, except that Faludi is the author of the 1992 feminist best-seller *Backlash: The Undiscovered War Against American Women*. In it, she argued the need to revive the flagging feminist movement because, she wrote, a combination of male-dominated governments, media and conservatives were conducting a "powerful counter-assault on women's rights." The book won critical raves—except from conservatives who never she escorted.

Now, the 40-year-old Faludi is back with *Stiffed: The Betrayal of the American Man*—a book that may annoy some feminists from off her first book, but one that is ultimately consistent with her previous work. Just as she did in *Backlash*, Faludi reports on the frustration felt by members of one sex in coping with the misdirection of societal changes around them. This time the subject is men, and Faludi sums up her intent early in the book with a rhetorical question: "What if we put aside the insurrection of male dominance, put away our feminist ripshirts of men's crimes and misdeeds, and, as our anti-feminist indicators of women's loss of male authority—and just looked at what men have experienced in the past generation?"

Emancipate, educate and sometimes exorcise as (over 600 pages, *Stiffed* offers a vision of men on the outskirts of everyday life, wondering how they lost their place at the center. Today's males have come of age in an era that includes the end of the struggle of the sole breadwinner, a push for

gays to display greater sensitivity and employees' equity laws in some places that push white males to the back of the employment line.

The product of six years of research, Faludi's book offers examples of male losses at all levels. They include military, the hard Cleveland football fan

at the time that "the male crisis in America was caused by something men were doing." But as she continues her research, she decides the key issue is what has been done to men: their value system has been blown out from under, and they have yet to find a replacement.

Their reaction manifests itself in sometimes disturbing ways. Faludi visits The Citadel military academy in Charleston, S.C., in 1994, at a time when cadets are about to choose one of the first female teachers, Suzanne Paulson, by brutal hazing. Long after Paulson has gone, Faludi lingers, and her reporting gives a shocking picture of young men in an environment that is both homophobic and anti-homophobic.

On the other hand, Faludi concludes that the millions of men who join the Protestant KKK are religious movements—which stress the primacy of the husband and father—are not trying to suppress women, despite the demonstrable misogyny of the group's leader. Rather, the members she speaks to seem "more concerned about improving their status than opposing hers."

If anything, Faludi can be too sympathetic to her willingness to excuse brutal, racist actions by Citadel cadets as a product of their environment implies they should not be held responsible. And the endless catalogue of victimhood is wearying: millions of men deal daily with women without the need to be either victim or perpetrator.

Windy Faludi offers no concrete solutions. She concludes men should not worry about "how to be masculine"—rather, their masculinity lies in figuring out how to be human. With *Stiffed*, the feminist Faludi is declaring that it's time for men and women to move towards that goal together.

In *Stiffed*, Faludi offers a nuanced picture of a male-dominated society in which it is easy to pinpoint victims, and harder to find clear-cut villains. She begins with vignettes of a domestic-violence group, which reflect her belief



Faludi: examples of male losses at all levels

who watch their sons leave sons, teenagers, gang members who accord each other points each time they have sex with a girl, and laid-off aerospace workers who go straight overnight from middle-class comfort to mid-life poverty.

In *Stiffed*, Faludi offers a nuanced picture of a male-dominated society in which it is easy to pinpoint victims, and harder to find clear-cut villains. She begins with vignettes of a domestic-violence group, which reflect her belief

Anthony Wilson Smith

## Automotive Marketplace

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## Child Safety in a Vehicle

By Dennis Des Rosiers

Every year there is a gripping headline related to a child dying in a vehicle accident. We are all devastated when this happens. But these accidents do not happen only to certain victims. They can happen to a child in any area of the country, at any age—from newborns to teenagers, from any family income group and in any make and model of vehicle. And for a parent, the prospect of such an accident is scary. You ask yourself what can you do to lessen the odds of an accident resulting in injury to your child.

There are some basic steps parents can take to help prevent serious injury to their children in a vehicle accident. For instance, the Canada Safety Council recently released statistics that showed that although more than 90 per cent of



Canadians now use seatbelts, less than 10 per cent of parents correctly use a child safety seat. The problems relate to buying the wrong seat for the vehicle, poor installation, improper use of the seat, or worse—not using a child safety seat at





case consider buying a child seat with a renewer base.

Your car dealer can help you with some of these problems. For instance it is virtually impossible to properly install a child safety seat in a vehicle with seatbelts installed on the car door. But your car dealer can install a special loop belt that will secure your child's seat, or better yet, convince you to buy a vehicle that is more suitable to your family needs. Indeed, some manufacturers have built-in child safety seats, especially in mini-vans. These are great because there are no installation or compatibility problems and built-ins provide better stability than add-on restraint devices. Even here, your dealer can help make sure that the integrated system meets the height and weight requirements of your children.

It is also important to buy the correct child seat for your infant. Infants under nine kg (20 lbs) should use a rear-facing infant seat. There are combination seats that can be turned forward once your child reaches a weight

of nine kg or 10 kg and can be used up to about 20 kg (40 lbs). But before using a forward-facing seat make sure the child can sit up unaided. Booster seats are firm cushions designed for children 16 kg to 27 kg (40 lbs to 60 lbs) who have outgrown their forward-facing child restraint. And never buy an older used or second-hand child seat, since many do not comply with current Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and may be less convenient to use than new seat designs.

When your child graduates to a booster seat, make sure the shoulder portion of the belt fits comfortably across your child's shoulder and the centre of the chest and most importantly, does not wrap around the neck. The lap portion should fit across your child's hips or upper thighs, not around the abdomen.

There is a test you can use in deciding when a young passenger is ready for an adult safety belt. It is only when the belt fits properly — which usually means



the child is big enough to sit all the way back in the seat with their knees bent comfortably at the edge of the seat.

Once you have chosen your safety seat, make sure you install it properly. In Canada, tether brackets are mandatory in new vehicles for a reason. They are attached to the rear deck of your vehicle (some are pre-installed or can be easily installed by the dealer) and should be used together with the tether strap that comes with your safety seat since it makes the installation more secure.

I mentioned that rear-facing seats should never be used in the front seat. Experts also recommend that they be tilted at a 45-degree angle so your infant's head will not tip forward, which can obstruct the child's breathing. Sometimes the slope of the back seat can tilt the safety seat incorrectly, which goes back to my earlier advice about buying the correct vehicle for the seat.

Some recommend pushing down on the child-safety seat or kneeling into the seat as you lock it in place to help provide a tighter fit. Also test the installation by trying to move the child-safety seat. A properly installed seat will move no more than an inch in any direction. If it does, then your vehicle may require a special locking clip or your seat belt may need to be shortened. Ask your dealer for help or read the instruction manual that comes with your vehicle.

Even after buying the proper seat and correctly installing it, parents need to follow some important rules

for securing their child in a safety seat. In cooler weather, bundling up a child before securing them in the seat can leave harness straps too loose. You should be able to fit just one finger between the harness and your child's collarbone. Put blankets on after the child is secure.

In a rear-facing seat the straps should come through the lower slots at or below the infant's shoulders. In the front-facing position the opposite is true, the straps should come through the top slots above the child's shoulders. Use the harness/retainer clip to keep the straps from twisting or getting tangled. The clip should be at the armpit level. Always read the seat's instruction manual to learn which adjustable straps and harnesses need to be locked in place. If instructions are vague or inadequate do not buy the seat.

Finally, the Canada Safety Council has an excellent website ([www.safety-council.org](http://www.safety-council.org)) which has a lot of information on child safety seats. I highly recommend visiting it before buying a safety seat.

These are some of the steps we can take to ensure the safety of our children in vehicles. However, it requires knowledge and the diligence to put that knowledge to good use. Remember the five golden rules:

1. Chosen the right seat for your child's weight and physical development.
2. Before you buy a seat, try it out in your car. Make sure it is possible to fit it the way the manufacturer recommends.
3. Always fit the seat exactly to the manufacturer's instructions. If you cannot do this, you have got the wrong seat!
4. Secure the child in the seat on every journey exactly as the manufacturer says.
5. Make sure that everyone in the car is correctly restrained.

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### ALL-WHEEL DRIVE DYNAMOMATICALLY OUTPERFORMS 4-WHEEL DRIVE

Automobile journalists are in universal agreement about the Subaru being a leader when it comes to providing safe, beautifully engineered transportation that performs exceptionally well. And All-Wheel Drive is a perfect example. Subaru was the first to pioneer in the engineering of All-Wheel Drive and this feature is found on all Subaru cars and models.

The Subaru All-Wheel Drive technology is a sophisticated, computerized sensing system which constantly monitors your driving conditions. Sensors located at each wheel are able to detect any changes in wheel speed and subsequently, in split-second time intervals that the right amount of power is transferred from the engine via the transmission to each individual wheel of your car. Effectively and efficiently. This principle of automatically shifting power from the wheels the slip to the wheels that grip ensures greater (or not) ultimate traction of your wheels. Hence, the greatest possible safety on the road in all conditions, at all times. Even on dry pavement.

### PEACE OF MIND IN EVERY MODEL

Subaru Impreza and Subaru Legacy are two prime examples of style and substance combined with outstanding performance. The first Impreza won the World Rally Manufacturer's Championship in 1995, 1996 and 1997 thanks

to all.

Each of these models — like all Subaru — features the dynamically engineered boxer engine, the same engine configuration used in the Ferrari Testarossa and the Porsche 911. The boxer engine uses pistons that move horizontally instead of up and down. The proven design provides smooth, responsive perfor-



Boxer engine, also called boxer engine, is a type of internal combustion engine.

mance as well as a lower centre of gravity, which improves the vehicle's balance and stability when cornering. This feature affords the driver more control of the vehicle.

### ACTIVE AVOIDANCE

As well as the boxer engine and All-Wheel Drive, Subarus also offer rack and pinion steering and 4-wheel independent suspension to ensure precise handling as well as a comfortable ride. And while most manufac-

turers offer 2- or 3-wheel anti-lock braking (ABS) Subarus offer a more sophisticated 4-wheel, 4-channel ABS system to prevent wheel lock up even under hard braking conditions. This allows the driver to maintain both traction and steering control in all weather conditions and hopefully be able to avoid involvement in an accident. All Subaru performance features and components are designed with this view in mind.

### PASSIVE PROTECTION

If an accident is unavoidable, all occupants are protected by front and rear crumple zones, side impact door beams, a collapsible steering column and an unwinding steel safety cage. Even the boxer engine is positioned to move down, under the cabin area, in a frontal impact. And, of course, dual front airbags are standard on all models.

### SAFETY AND PERFORMANCE AND AN INCREASING EXPERIENCE

In addition to outstanding engineering and performance, elegant styling combined with strong acceleration, powerful braking and smooth response to driver input make the Subaru Legacy and the Subaru Impreza a joy to own and a delight to drive.

For a Subaru dealer nearest you please call 1-800-875-5A95 or visit [www.subaru.ca](http://www.subaru.ca)

The all new 2000 Outback and Legacy  
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beauty and performance



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road. Our legendary computer-controlled Subaru All-Wheel Drive system and our reliable 4-sensor, 4-channel Anti-Lock Braking system gives you peace of mind while the re-engineered 2.5 litre horizontally-opposed "boxer" engine gives you plenty of power to spare. Ask your dealer for more details.

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Books

# CanLit's gutsy godfather



From left, McClelland, more than just flamboyant marketing

## A biographer pays tribute to Jack McClelland's bold support of Canuck writers

**Jack: A Life with Writers**  
By James King  
Knopf/Canada, 435 pages, \$34.95

One miserable, dour March day in 1980, publisher Jack McClelland put on a toga, covered his silver hair with laurel leaves, and went for a stroll with author Sylvia Fraser—himself dressed as a Roman emperor—to several Toronto bookstores. They were publicizing Fraser's new novel, *The Empress's Man*, and by the photographic evidence offered in James King's fascinating and welcome biography, *Jack*, McClelland was having a whale of a time misquoting as a Roman emperor. There was (and perhaps still is) a theatrical streak in Canada's most famous and influential publisher—who retired a dozen years ago and now, at 77, divides his time between homes in Ontario and Florida. But King, the Dundas, Ont.-based academic and author of biographies of Margaret Laurence and Virginia

Woolf, also shows that there is a great deal more than flamboyant salesmanship to the man whom Leonard Cohen once hailed as "the real prime minister of Canada."

During his 40-year career, McClelland was a raffish man-about-town, a devoted husband and father—and a workaholic personally torn between his need to be a financial success and his consuming ambition to publish Canadian books. In the end, he failed at the former and succeeded so well at the latter that King concludes McClelland has done more than anyone else to nurture that elusive but necessary beast called Canadian culture.

In fact, McClelland embodies the national dilemma: his career turned on the question of how to make Canadian culture grow in the face of hostile economic and geographical realities. Canadian publishing—like the country itself—is not really a national proposition. After the war, when the 24-year-old former torpedo-boat officer joined his father's publishing company, McClelland & Brown, it made most of its money by distributing British and American books. As Jack gradually took over M&B, he began to publish mainly Canadian authors, but the population of the country was simply too small to support profitable print runs. Publishers were conservative and unsympathetic. Canadian authors were few. Had McClelland been sensible, he would have heeded the conventional wisdom of his upper-middle-class background and become a middlebrow instead.

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## Books

### Ode to an absent dad



**Motion Sickness**

By David Layton

Marginalia: Walter & Pines  
243 pages, \$29.95

The children of the famous can have as hard a time getting an audience with their celebrated parents as anyone else—just ask David Layton. He recalls that his father, poet Irving Layton, was so obsessed with writing poems, chasing women and proclaiming his own genius that he scarcely had time for him. David's mother, Anna,

as the lover and companion of The Great Man, was almost equally distracted. When she went trying to patch up her relationship with her philandering husband—and in the process splitting David around between homes in Canada and temporary digs in England and the Mediterranean, David grew up confused, scared and restless, not to mention spaced out on the anti-hypertensive drug Resin, which his mother sometimes dipped into as well. It's all there in 35-year-old David's fine book, *Motion Sickness*, a doubly exposing memoir that walks a fine line between reminiscence and revenge.

*Motion Sickness* is a deceptively simple story told, for the most part, from the vantage point of a 10-year-old. At first glance, David seems determined to pass his father as an enfeebled buffoon. When he shows his son how to plant a garden, the lesson almost nothing, above all, is even less David can act, he disarms with a pompous celebration of poets. Greats of history such as Camus and Wilde, he declares, are merely "Soldier for mankind."

Yet *Motion Sickness* is subtle and barbed enough to hurt at another side to

all this. Irving is getting old (he is in his 60s for most of the book) and must struggle to put a brave face on his displacement from Anna's bed by his younger lover, songwriter Leon Wilson. At times, in fact, he seems almost a tragic figure who—in a country largely indifferent to poetry—has had to turn himself into a carnival barker to feed his dreams. In the final chapter, as Irving dips into senility, his son—who by now has reached adulthood—offers a moving, reconciliatory rendering.



Irving and David Layton around 1970: mother

Unlike Irving, who in his writing favoured a booming, dramatic, but too often a limped and understated prose. He is particularly good at evoking people and places in a few words (the middle novel *Leon Wilson's pipe jammed between his teeth like "an animal paw caught in a red trap"). Motion Sickness* does not always work so well; there are tedious stretches, and while David admits that his early life was "poisoning" him, his memoirs accuse more a patchwork of external observations than a consistent exploration of his own struggles. So for all that, *Motion Sickness* is a readable debut—certainly much more than a footnote to a famous name.

John Burt Foster

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## Just watching Pierre

**The first time** I saw that Pierre Trudeau was in an old Granman Goose and under Sunday morning in early 1968 as we were flying across the beautiful Gulf Islands on the way from Vancouver to Victoria.

He was checking out any B.C. support for his whistled look at the Liberal leadership. With us was Gordon Gibson, the first Ottawa insider to start the Trudeau-for-PM push (and now an ex-Liberal leader in British Columbia, so disillusioned with Ottawa that he is a Reform supporter with everything but a party card).

Trudeau of course won the Victoria mission at an English Head branch and we flew back for an evening reception at the Hotel Vancouver. He was upstairs to change. An escort crowd waited at the door to the bathroom, all locked, and in the very front was a stunning young beauty with red curls.

She was literally bouncing on her feet and singing, over and over again, of her girlfriend—"Do you think I'll remember me?" Trudeau pushed his way through and she threw herself at him—under the Mexico and Bill. He remembered. It was the first time he had seen Margaret Sinclair since he had met her, in a bikini, on that raft in Tahiti.

One night in Rome, after a G-7 meeting in Venice, he was the star guest at a party thrown for him by Rudolf Berg, the famed Alberta photographer. It was midnight under a moon, on a rooftop garden overlooking the Tiber. Exotic people of all three sexes floated about, serving champagne and smoked salmon.

Your humble scribbler had been smuggled in by his press associates. By Gossage and Suzanne Perry—the mother of now Hollywood heartthrob Matt Perry. Trudeau walked around, in semi-drag, and said, "Oh, Fotheringham, you remind me of Queen de Beignac. You make menials so rusty." And he launched off into a long quotation, in French of course.

"Oh, Mr. Trudeau," I said, "I wouldn't know what you're talking about, naturally, since I'm from Western Canada." He turned on his heel and walked off. We did not talk again for two years.

His well-known contempt for the press came from natural causes. As a young academic, he grew up in a milieu where the regulars in the Quebec City press gallery lined up in the end of the year and were handed cheques by Duglas

Boulton. That some never faded from his mind. He suspected we were all like that.

Craig Oliver, who contacted that fine CTV special on the 80th birthday when the two surviving sons said their father was "totally" his whole life, is celebrated in media circles for his hobby. Each year, he takes his friends on a canoe journey to some obscure water park north all the way to the Arctic.

His gang has included chief Clarence hand-holder Eddie Goldenberg, magazine editor John Macfarlane, MP John Godfrey, TV executive Tim Koschell and select others. "Totally," the famed physical fitness man, heard about it and asked if he could join in.

Oliver went to the PM's office to collect a cheque, since it is a very expensive pastime—chartered planes to get all those canoe in and out, all the participants as part of the mile-longing, populating on good whaleyard mortgage values to finish off a tough day in freezing and dangerous waters.

Trudeau, a notorious chapsack (as so many millionaires are), presented suspiciously at the five-figure number Oliver quoted him and allowed that he, of course, wasn't interested in paying for any of the liquor.

"And guess what," Oliver laughed at the end of the strip, "you're around the campfire every night, ranting his hole to egg, asking for his share!"

In essence, the Ottawa press gallery was afraid of him, intimidated by his intellect, very way of his witless wit. When he first surfaced, he was asked at a press conference whether he still had his Mercedes. "Would that be the car, or the girl?" he replied.

He promised, of course, never to read the press. But when the lovely scribbler, arriving from early Trudeauanitis, began to give him some severe shins on this page, on leaving a press conference on the way to his limo out front, he would punch me in the gut. It was the highest praise.

On the day he resigned after the walk in the snow, he dined off the whole Mercedes convertible and rolled up the long driveway to Rodina Hall, the press mob gathered in hundreds. He stood up at the door, turned grimly, and ran over my foot. An ending joke.

When his son drowned, I saw him a personal note, father to father. Reporters were supposed to write to politicians. I guess that's why he was different.



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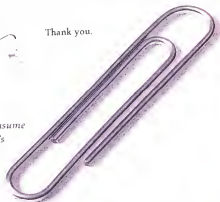
To all staff,

It has come to the attention of the Management Committee that we have a problem with paper clip wastage within our office. Therefore, as of July 1st, paper clips will be issued individually, on an "as-needed" basis. To those who feel this measure is a little too severe, the Management Committee would like to remind you of last June's eraser situation.



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